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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## May

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTION FOR PRACTICE
- DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



### KL IAS Academy



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# PREFACE

**This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of May 2025.**

**The Magazine is divided into three sections:**

## **Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short**

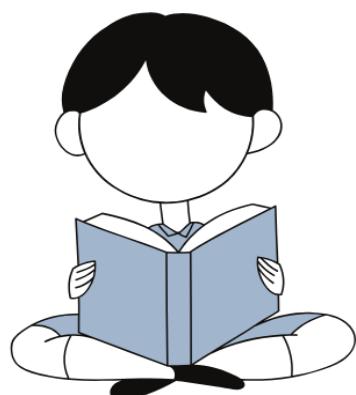
The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

## **Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers**

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

## **Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event**

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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## Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

## Section 2

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## SECTION 1

# Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



## 1: Important Days



### **Maharashtra Day : 01 May :-**

Maharashtra Day, observed on May 1 every year, occupies a particular place in the hearts of Maharashtrians because it commemorates the establishment of the western Indian state. Maharashtra was formed on May 1, 1960, as a result of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, which was implemented along linguistic lines. The act divided the former Bombay State into two new states: Maharashtra, for Marathi speakers, and Gujarat, for Gujaratis. It is a day to honour the sacrifices made by countless individuals who dedicated their lives to the cause of Maharashtra's formation.



### **International Labour Day : 01 May :-**

Every year on May 1, International Labour Day, commonly known as May Day, is observed around the world. This day honors the industrious individuals whose dedication and sweat have impacted society and economies around the world. International Labour Day dates back to the late nineteenth-century labor movement in the United States. The date of May 1st was

chosen to commemorate a nationwide strike for an eight-hour workday that commenced in 1886. The theme of International Labour Day 2025 is "Safety and Health of Workers"



### **World Tuna Day : 02 May :-**

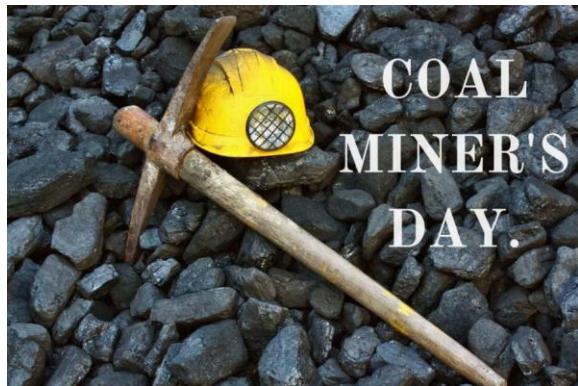
Every year on May 2, a celebration known as World Tuna Day is held to raise awareness of the tuna species' issues. The United Nations established Tuna Day to promote awareness about the importance of tuna, particularly in countries that rely heavily on fishing. Several countries rely on tuna resources for food security and nutrition, economic development, employment, livelihood, and culture. In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly officially voted to observe the Day in its resolution 71/124. On May 2, 2017, the first World Tuna Day was recognised. World Tuna Day 2025 theme is "Our Ocean, Our Tuna, Our Future."



### **World Press Freedom Day : 03 May :-**

Observed annually on May 3, World Press Freedom Day highlights the importance of independent journalism and

the challenges media professionals face worldwide. In 2025, discussions center around artificial intelligence's impact on journalism—both its potential to enhance reporting efficiency and its risks, including misinformation and bias. Reports show press freedom is declining in several countries due to political influence and restrictive regulations. India, ranking 151st on the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, faces concerns over media censorship, corporate monopolization, and the safety of journalists.



#### Coal Miners Day : 04 May :-

Coal Miner's Day is celebrated on May 4 each year. It honours the hard work and sacrifices of coal miners around the world. The observance dates back to 1952, when the Mines Act was passed to improve miners' safety and health conditions. The first coal mine in India opened in 1774 by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatly. It was by the Damodar River in the Raniganj Coalfield. After India became independent in 1949, the need for coal grew. So, the government made plans to get more coal for energy.



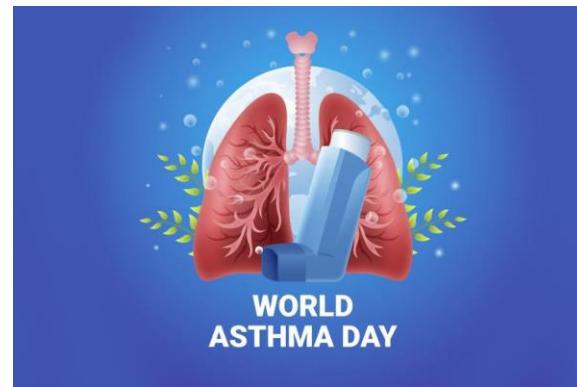
#### International Firefighters' Day : 04 May :-

International Fire Fighters' Day is celebrated every year on 4 May. This day honors firefighters' bravery and sacrifices in protecting lives and property. This day was established in 1999 after five firefighters tragically died in a wildfire in Victoria, Australia. This day was proposed by JJ Edmondson, it coincides with St. Florian's feast day, the patron saint of firefighters. This day recognizes firefighters' dedication, promotes fire safety awareness, and commemorates those who lost their lives in service.



#### World Laughter Day 2025 : 04 May :-

Celebrated globally on the first Sunday of May, World Laughter Day promotes joy, wellness, and unity through laughter. This year, it will be observed on 05 May. Founded in 1998 by Dr. Madan Kataria, an Indian physician who started the Laughter Yoga movement, this day highlights laughter's role in improving health and fostering peace. Laughter reduces stress, strengthens immunity, and enhances social bonds. The day encourages people around the world to come together, share laughter and spread positivity, contributing to a happier and healthier world.



#### World Asthma Day 2025 : 06 May :-

World Asthma Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday of May to raise awareness about asthma, a chronic respiratory disease affecting millions worldwide. This year it will be observed on 06 May. In 2025, the theme is "Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL", emphasizing the need for affordable and effective asthma medication. The day highlights the importance of early diagnosis, proper treatment, and lifestyle modifications to manage asthma symptoms. Events include free health check-ups, awareness campaigns, and discussions on alternative treatments like Ayurveda.



#### World Athletics Day : 07 May :-

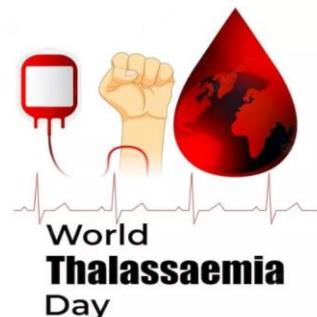
World Athletics Day, observed annually on May 7, promotes sports participation and encourages young people to embrace athletics. Established in 1996 by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the initiative aims to foster a culture of fitness and competitive spirit. On July 17, 1912, in Stockholm, Sweden, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was established. Schools and universities worldwide mark the occasion with sporting events, reinforcing the importance of physical activity.



#### World Red Cross Day : 08 May :-

Celebrated annually on May 8, World Red Cross Day honors the humanitarian efforts of the International Red

Cross and Red Crescent Movement, founded by Henry Dunant. It highlights the organization's role in disaster relief, medical assistance, and community welfare. The theme for 2025, "Keeping Humanity Alive," emphasizes global solidarity in crises. With over 97 million volunteers across 192 countries, the Red Cross continues to provide essential aid in conflicts and disasters. The day also promotes blood donation drives, first aid training, and emergency preparedness worldwide.



#### World Thalassaemia Day : 08 May :-

Observed on May 8, World Thalassaemia Day raises awareness about thalassaemia, a genetic blood disorder affecting hemoglobin production. The theme for 2025, "Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients," focuses on healthcare improvements and patient support. Advances in gene therapy show promise in reducing transfusions. Experts recommend mandatory prenatal screening to prevent cases. Public campaigns educate on early diagnosis, treatment options, and bone marrow transplants. Global efforts aim to improve patient quality of life, reduce stigma, and enhance medical research into long-term cures.



**World Lupus Day : 10 May :-**

World Lupus Day, observed annually on May 10, raises awareness about lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease where the immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissues. The condition can affect multiple organs, including the skin, joints, kidneys, lungs, heart, and brain. Symptoms vary widely, making diagnosis challenging. The day emphasizes the importance of early detection, medical research, and patient support. World Lupus Day was established in 2004 by lupus organizations from 13 countries to raise awareness about Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), a chronic autoimmune disease.

**World Migratory Bird Day 2025 : 10 May :-**

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated annually on the Second Saturday of May and October to reflect the cyclical nature of bird migration. In 2025, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrating on 10 May and 11 October. The theme for 2025 is "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities," emphasizing the need for urban planning that supports both birds and people. Migratory birds face threats such as habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution, making conservation efforts crucial. Cities worldwide host events, educational programs, and bird-watching activities to promote awareness.

**World Fair Trade Day 2025 : 10 May :-**

World Fair Trade Day, observed annually on the second Saturday of May, promotes ethical trading practices that ensure workers receive fair wages, safe conditions, and sustainable livelihoods. In 2025 it will be observed on 10 May. The 2025 theme, 'Be the voice of the #BusinessRevolution' encourages consumer-driven change by supporting companies that prioritize social and environmental responsibility. Fair trade helps combat poverty, exploitation, and climate change by advocating for responsible sourcing and production.

**National Technology Day (India) : 11 May :-**

National Technology Day is observed annually on May 11 in India to celebrate the country's advancements in science and technology. The day marks the anniversary of Pokhran-II, a series of nuclear tests conducted by India on May 11, 1998, under Operation Shakti, which established India as a nuclear power. The tests were led by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Atomic Energy Commission of India. The official theme for National Technology Day 2025 is "YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration."

**Mother's Day 2025 : 11 May :-**

Mother's Day is celebrated worldwide to honor mothers and maternal figures. In most countries, including India, the United States, and Canada, it falls on the second Sunday of May, which in 2025 is May 11. The modern celebration traces its origins to Anna Jarvis, who organized the first official Mother's Day in the United States in 1908. It was officially recognized in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson. While originally intended as a heartfelt tribute, it has become a widely commercialized event.



#### International Nurses Day : 12 May :-

International Nurses Day is celebrated annually on May 12, marking the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The day was officially established by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 1974 to recognize the contributions of nurses worldwide. The theme for 2025 is "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies", emphasizing the role of nurses in ensuring healthcare access and equity. Hospitals and health organizations globally host events, appreciation programs, and discussions on improving working conditions for nurses.



#### International Day of Families : 15 May :-

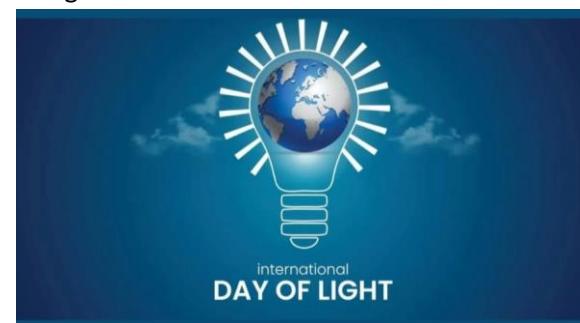
Observed on May 15 annually, the International Day of Families was established by the United Nations in 1983

to emphasize the significance of families in social development. It promotes discussions on family-related challenges and encourages policies that support familial well-being. The 2025 theme, "Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development" highlights the role of families in achieving long-term global progress. Events worldwide focus on education, health, and social inclusion, underscoring the importance of strong family structures in building sustainable communities.



#### National Dengue Day (India) : 16 May :-

Observed every year on May 16, National Dengue Day aims to raise awareness about dengue fever, a viral disease transmitted by the Aedes mosquito. Established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010, the day promotes preventive measures, early detection, and treatment to combat its spread. Dengue cases surge during monsoons due to breeding conditions. Health campaigns educate the public about symptoms like high fever, rashes, and joint pain. This year's National Dengue Day theme is "Check, Clean, Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue".



#### International Day of Light : 16 May :-

Celebrated on May 16, the International Day of Light highlights the role of light-based technologies in science, education, culture, and sustainability. Established by

UNESCO, it marks the anniversary of physicist Theodore Maiman's successful operation of the laser in 1960. The day underscores how light contributes to advancements in healthcare, renewable energy, and global connectivity. From fiber optics to space exploration, light-driven innovations shape the modern world. The theme for 2025 is "Light, Innovation, Society".



#### Endangered Species Day 2025 : 16 May :-

On May 16, 2025 (the third Friday of May), Endangered Species Day raises awareness about species facing extinction due to habitat destruction, climate change, and illegal hunting. Established in 2006 by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition, it encourages conservation efforts globally. Schools, environmental groups, and policymakers promote sustainable practices to protect biodiversity. Success stories, like the recovery of certain species, showcase the importance of conservation. By highlighting endangered animals and plants, the day fosters public engagement and encourages communities to take action in safeguarding ecosystems.



#### International Day of Living Together in Peace : 16 May

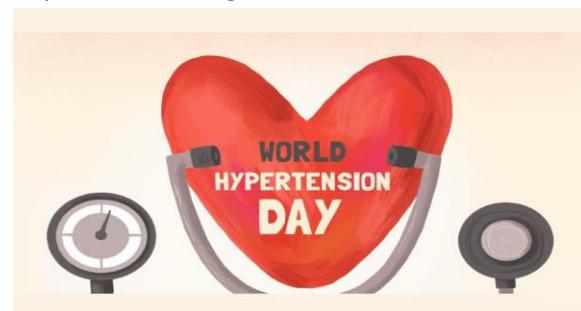
Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, this global observance on May 16 promotes tolerance, peace, and solidarity. It encourages intercultural dialogue and reconciliation between

communities, advocating for peaceful coexistence beyond religious, ethnic, and social divides. The day calls on individuals, governments, and organizations to reject discrimination, foster inclusion, and resolve conflicts peacefully. Events worldwide focus on humanitarian efforts and diplomacy. Through cooperation and mutual respect, societies can build a culture of peace that strengthens relationships among different groups and ensures stability and progress.



#### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day : 17 May :-

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is celebrated annually on May 17 to recognize the role of digital communication in global development. Established in 1969 to mark the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1865, it merged with World Information Society Day in 2006. The day highlights the importance of bridging the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to technology, and fostering innovation. The 2025 theme, "Gender equality in digital transformation," emphasizes the need to promote women's participation in digital industries and improve technological access worldwide.



#### World Hypertension Day : 17 May :-

World Hypertension Day is observed on May 17 each year to raise awareness about high blood pressure, often

called the "silent killer" due to its asymptomatic nature. Established by the World Hypertension League in 2005, it aims to encourage early diagnosis and control of hypertension, reducing risks of heart disease and stroke. The 2025 theme, "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!" promotes proactive health monitoring. Governments and health organizations worldwide conduct campaigns to educate people on the importance of lifestyle changes and medical intervention.



#### World AIDS Vaccine Day : 18 May :-

World AIDS Vaccine Day, observed annually on May 18, highlights the ongoing efforts to develop a vaccine against HIV/AIDS. It was first commemorated in 1998, inspired by a speech given by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1997, where he stressed the need for a preventive vaccine to eradicate the disease. The day recognizes the dedication of researchers, healthcare professionals, and volunteers working to combat HIV/AIDS worldwide. It also raises awareness about the importance of scientific advancements, funding, and global cooperation in the fight against the epidemic.



#### International Museum Day : 18 May :-

Celebrated annually on May 18, International Museum Day aims to emphasize the role of museums in cultural exchange, education, and historical preservation.

Established in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the day encourages public engagement with museums across the globe. The day promotes accessibility, sustainability, and inclusivity in the museum space, reinforcing their importance in shaping collective memory and fostering understanding among diverse communities worldwide. In 2025, the theme is "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities".



#### World Bee Day : 20 May :-

World Bee Day is celebrated internationally on May 20 to honor the vital role that bees and other pollinators play in sustaining biodiversity, food security, and natural ecosystems. Established by the United Nations in 2017 following Slovenia's proposal, the date also commemorates the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneering figure in modern beekeeping from the 18th century. The day serves to highlight the challenges bees face today—from habitat loss and pesticide use to climate change—and calls for global action toward conservation initiatives. This year's theme is "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all".



#### National Anti-Terrorism Day (India) : 21 May :-

National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed annually on May 21 in India as a somber reminder of the tragic

assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. Established in the wake of that catastrophic event, the day is marked by educational seminars, public debates, and awareness campaigns that highlight the far-reaching impacts of terrorism on society and national security. By commemorating this day, the government and civil society reaffirm their commitment to counter-terrorism efforts while also inspiring citizens—especially the youth—to embrace peace, uphold democratic values, and work to prevent violence.

**International Tea Day : 21 May :-**

International Tea Day, celebrated on May 21, underscores the storied cultural, economic, and social significance of tea in the world. Originally popularized in tea-producing nations, the observance was further elevated by the United Nations, which in December 2019 adopted a resolution to promote sustainable production and fair trade practices in the tea industry. The day is not only a tribute to the beverage that has enriched lives for centuries but also a platform to address the challenges faced by tea workers and smallholder farmers. The theme for International Tea Day 2025, "Tea for Better Lives."

**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development : 21 May :-**

Celebrated every year on May 21, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlights the critical role that diverse cultural expressions play in fostering dialogue and sustainable development worldwide. In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Next, in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. It stands as a call to action for governments, communities, and individuals to harness cultural diversity as a foundation for improved social cohesion and economic progress.

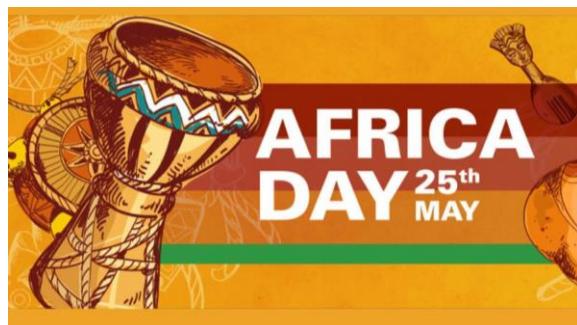
**International Day for Biological Diversity : 22 May :-**

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) is observed annually on May 22 to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. The day aims to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and promote global action to protect ecosystems. The 2025 theme, "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," highlights the interconnectedness of biodiversity with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Biodiversity plays a crucial role in food security, climate regulation, and medicinal resources.



**World Turtle Day : 23 May :-**

World Turtle Day is celebrated annually on May 23 to raise awareness about the conservation of turtles. Established in 2002 by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), the day highlights the threats these reptiles face due to habitat destruction, illegal pet trade, and pollution. Turtles play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance by cleaning beaches and providing shelter for other species. The event encourages people to adopt turtles responsibly, support conservation efforts, and educate others about their importance.

**Africa Day : 25 May :-**

Africa Day is celebrated every year on May 25 to commemorate the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963—a milestone that eventually evolved into the African Union. The day symbolizes Africa's long struggle for liberation from colonial rule, marking both socio-political triumphs and the painful history of exploitation. It serves as a reminder of the continent's diverse cultural heritage, encouraging unity among African nations and their diasporas. This year, the theme for Africa Day is "Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations."

**Menstrual Hygiene Day : 28 May :-**

Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed annually on May 28 to raise awareness about menstrual health and hygiene. It was first celebrated in 2014, initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United, aiming to break taboos surrounding menstruation and promote access to sanitary products and education. The significance of this day lies in advocating for better menstrual hygiene management, ensuring that menstruation does not hinder education, employment, or dignity. The official theme for 2025 is "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld", emphasizing collective action to eliminate stigma and improve menstrual health globally.



29 MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
PEACEKEEPERS

**International Day of UN Peacekeepers : 29 May :-**

Observed annually on May 29, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers honors the dedication and sacrifice of uniformed and civilian peacekeepers who serve in conflict zones worldwide. Since the first UN peacekeeping mission in 1948, over two million personnel have participated in more than 70 operations. The theme for 2025, "The Future of Peacekeeping," reflects the evolving nature of peace operations and the need for modernization. The UN is actively working to adapt missions to contemporary challenges, as outlined in the Pact for the Future.

**Hindi Journalism Day : 30 May :-**

Hindi Journalism Day is observed annually on May 30 to mark the beginning of Hindi journalism in India. On May 30, 1826, the first Hindi newspaper, *Udant Martand*, was published in Kolkata under the editorship of Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla. It was a groundbreaking step in making news accessible to the Hindi-speaking population, especially at a time when English and Bengali dominated journalism. This day serves as a tribute to the evolution of Hindi media, recognizing its role in shaping public discourse, promoting cultural identity, and ensuring information reaches a broader audience.



#### Goa Statehood Day : 30 May :-

Goa Statehood Day is observed on May 30 to commemorate Goa's transformation from a Union Territory to a full-fledged state in 1987. Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961, and initially governed as a Union Territory alongside

Daman and Diu. However, demands for statehood grew, fueled by Goa's distinct cultural identity, economic potential, and historical significance. On May 30, 1987, the Indian government granted Goa statehood, recognizing its unique heritage and contribution to the country.



#### International Day of Potato : 30 May :-

The International Day of Potato is celebrated on May 30 to highlight the potato's vital role in global food security and sustainable agriculture. The United Nations designated this observance in December 2023, recognizing the potato's nutritional value, adaptability to diverse climates, and contribution to agricultural economies worldwide. Potatoes have been cultivated for thousands of years, originating in South America and becoming a staple across continents. The official theme for 2025 is "Shaping history, feeding the future".

## 2: Agreements



#### Ukraine and US Sign New Economic Partnership Agreement :-

In a significant geopolitical development, Ukraine and the United States have signed an economic partnership deal granting the US preferential access to Ukrainian mineral resources. The agreement includes funding for Ukraine's reconstruction efforts, emphasizing investment in critical infrastructure and green energy. It also strengthens trade relationships amid ongoing tensions with Russia. Analysts interpret this as a strategic move to counter Russian influence in Eastern Europe. Ukrainian officials hope the agreement will stimulate economic growth, while critics warn against dependence on foreign investment.



### India and Denmark Renew Energy Cooperation with a New MoU :-

India and Denmark have reinforced their commitment to clean energy by signing a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This strategic agreement expands the partnership's scope beyond routine tasks, introducing advanced areas such as power system modeling, integration of variable renewable energy, and development of cutting-edge electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The collaboration is timed to support India's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. In addition to technological exchange, the MoU emphasizes capacity building, regular expert interactions, and joint research, ensuring that both countries benefit through knowledge sharing and innovation.



### Angola signs International Solar Alliance agreement during President Lourenco's India visit :-

During Angolan President João Lourenço's visit to India, Angola officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming its 123rd member. The agreement aims to enhance solar energy cooperation between India and Angola, supporting sustainable energy solutions. India

also approved a \$200 million defense credit line for Angola and signed agreements in agriculture, healthcare, and cultural exchange. This move strengthens India-Africa ties and promotes renewable energy adoption.



### Andhra govt signs MoU for Creator Land, India's first transmedia city :-

The Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with CreativeLand Asia to establish Creator Land, India's first transmedia entertainment city in Amaravati. The project aims to generate 25,000 jobs and attract ₹10,000 crore in investments over six years. It will focus on films, gaming, AI-driven content, and virtual production, making Andhra Pradesh a global hub for creative industries. Creatorland Academy will train youth in VFX, AI, immersive storytelling, and media technologies. The initiative strengthens India's position in content creation, digital media, and entertainment innovation.



### India, Chile Sign Terms For Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement :-

India and Chile signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement aims to enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation, building upon the existing

Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The CEPA will cover digital services, investment promotion, critical minerals, and MSME collaboration. The first round of negotiations is scheduled for May 26-30, 2025, in New Delhi. This move strengthens India-Chile economic relations and is expected to boost trade volumes significantly.



#### Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra ink MoU for Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project :-

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly implement the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project. The initiative aims to address water scarcity in both states by utilizing water from the Tapti River, which originates in Madhya Pradesh and flows through Maharashtra. The project will benefit over 5.78 lakh acres of land, ensuring irrigation for districts in Vidarbha and North Maharashtra. The estimated cost of the project is ₹19,244 crores, with the central government expected to fund 90% of it.



#### HCLTech Joins European Commission's AI Pact to Champion Responsible AI :-

HCLTech has joined the European Commission's AI Pact, reaffirming its dedication to responsible AI development. The pact is a voluntary initiative aligning companies with

the upcoming EU AI Act, focusing on transparency, safety, and human oversight in AI applications. As AI regulations tighten, HCLTech has established an Office of Responsible AI and Governance to integrate ethical AI principles within its operations. By joining this pact, HCLTech demonstrates commitment to fostering AI technologies that enhance business solutions while ensuring compliance with evolving global regulations.



#### DST and DRDO Join Hands to Strengthen India's Space Surveillance :-

The DST and DRDO collaboration strengthens India's space surveillance through a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) aim to enhance India's ability to monitor space debris, satellites, and potential threats. This partnership utilizes Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) astronomical expertise and IRDE's advanced surveillance technologies, ensuring a secure space environment.



#### US and Saudi Arabia Sign \$142 Billion Arms Deal During Trump Visit :-

During Donald Trump's visit to Riyadh, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a \$142 billion arms deal, reinforcing their strategic defense partnership. This

agreement includes advanced military equipment, missile defense systems, and training programs for Saudi forces. The deal is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan to modernize its defense capabilities while strengthening economic ties with the U.S. It sparked international discussions about regional security, arms control, and geopolitical interests in the Middle East.



#### IIT-Roorkee cancels MoU with Turkey's Inonu university :-

In a significant move underscoring national security and strategic interests, the renowned Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, canceled its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Turkey's Inonu University. Originally established to foster academic and research collaborations through student and faculty exchanges, the agreement was deemed misaligned with India's broader geopolitical priorities. The decision comes amid heightened tensions and a series of similar actions taken by other Indian academic institutions due to Turkey's perceived support for adversarial positions in regional conflicts.



#### Maharashtra govt inked MoU with Mercedes Benz India for road safety :-

In a pioneering initiative aimed at drastically reducing roadway fatalities, the Maharashtra government has inked an MoU with Mercedes Benz India and SaveLife Foundation as part of a broader road safety project. This partnership focuses on transforming the critically-trafficked Samruddhi Mahamarg by implementing a comprehensive "Zero Fatality Corridor" plan that integrates engineering improvements, strict traffic enforcement, emergency response enhancements, and extensive public education campaigns.



#### Six African Nations Sign MoU to Eliminate Kala-Azar :-

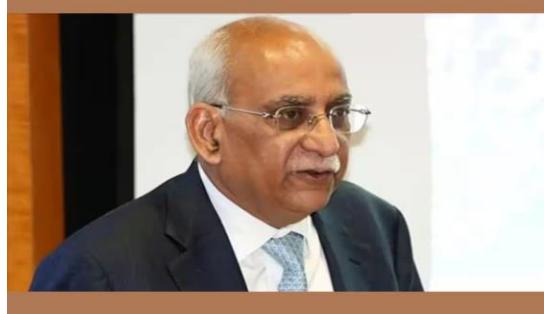
Six East African nations—Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan—have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to eliminate Kala-Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis), a deadly parasitic disease. The agreement, signed during the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva, aims to enhance investment, treatment accessibility, cross-border surveillance, and public health coordination. The initiative is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), African Union, and Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi). Over 70% of global Kala-Azar cases occur in East Africa, making this a crucial step in combating the disease.

### 3: Appointments



#### President Appoints Justice BR Gavai As 52nd CJI Of India :-

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was named the 52nd Chief Justice of India. On May 14, he will take the oath of office to succeed incumbent Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was born November 24, 1960, in Amravati. On March 16, 1985, he joined the Bar. Justice BR Gavai was appointed a permanent judge of the high court on November 12, 2005. Since then, he has served on various Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court, delivering historic decisions. He was a member of the five-judge bench that unanimously upheld the Centre's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.



#### Ex-Raw Chief Alok Joshi Appointed Head of Revamped National Security Board :-

Former RAW chief Alok Joshi has been appointed chairman of India's revamped National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). His selection underscores India's focus on intelligence-led policymaking amid rising security concerns, including cross-border threats and cyber

espionage. The newly structured board includes experts from military, police, and foreign services, aiming to provide strategic guidance to the government. Joshi's experience in intelligence and counterterrorism will be instrumental in shaping India's security framework. The appointment aligns with India's broader approach to strengthening national security policies and crisis response mechanisms in an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape.



#### Sujata Chaturvedi Appointed As A UPSC Board Member

Sujata Chaturvedi's appointment as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marks a significant milestone in administrative leadership. An IAS officer from the 1989 batch with a decorated career spanning roles such as Union Secretary for Sports, she brings a wealth of experience and strong credentials—from serving as Principal Secretary (Finance) in Bihar to holding senior positions at the Centre. Appointed under Article 316 of the Constitution, her six-year term (or until age 65) is expected to infuse the UPSC with seasoned judgment in conducting the civil services examinations.



**Parameswaran Iyer to Represent India at IMF Board :-**

India has appointed Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director at the World Bank, as its nominee director on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board. His appointment follows the premature termination of K V Subramanian's tenure. Iyer will represent India at the May 9 IMF Executive Board meeting, where key financial decisions, including a \$7 billion bailout package for Pakistan, will be discussed. His extensive experience in governance and policy-making, including leading the Swachh Bharat Mission, positions him well for this role.

**Justice Surya Kant Appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman :-**

Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), replacing Justice B.R. Gavai. As a Supreme Court judge, Surya Kant has contributed to several landmark judgments and legal reforms. NALSA ensures free legal aid to underprivileged citizens, striving for equitable access to justice. His leadership is expected to expand legal services, focusing on marginalized communities.

**Anita Anand appointed as Canada's new foreign minister :-**

In a cabinet reshuffle, Anita Anand, former Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, was appointed as

Canada's Foreign Minister. She succeeds Melanie Joly and is expected to lead Canada's diplomatic and trade policies. Anand previously held key roles in national security and governance. With Canada facing challenges like geopolitical tensions and climate agreements, her appointment signals a strategic approach to foreign relations. Her experience in policymaking and global cooperation will shape Canada's engagement with international allies, focusing on trade, security, and humanitarian efforts.

**Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar Takes Charge at UPSC :-**

Ajay Kumar, a 1985-batch IAS officer, has been appointed Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). With extensive experience in defense administration, cybersecurity, and policy formulation, his leadership is expected to enhance the commission's efficiency. The UPSC conducts civil service examinations, shaping India's bureaucratic framework. Kumar's tenure will likely introduce reforms in governance, digital advancements in recruitment, and streamlined selection processes.

**Bhawna Agarwal Appointed as Senior Vice President and MD of HPE India :-**

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) has appointed Bhawna Agarwal as its new Senior Vice President and Managing Director for India. She succeeds Som Satsangi, who retires after 27 years of service. Agarwal brings over 25 years of experience in digital businesses, consumer technology, and leadership roles. Her expertise is expected to drive HPE's growth strategy in India, reinforcing innovation and transformation in the tech sector. With her appointment, HPE aims to strengthen its position in enterprise technology and expand its influence in India's rapidly evolving digital market.



#### **Former CJI DY Chandrachud Joins NLU Delhi As Distinguished Professor :-**

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has been appointed as a Distinguished Professor at National Law University (NLU) Delhi. After retiring in November 2024, Chandrachud continues his involvement in legal education and research. He will lead studies at the Centre for Constitutional Studies, offering insights into landmark judicial decisions on privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, and legal reforms. His appointment is expected to enhance academic discourse, provide mentorship to aspiring lawyers, and contribute to policy discussions on constitutional law and governance in India.



#### **Sudan Appoints Kamil Idris as First PM Since 2023 Civil War :-**

Sudan's army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan has appointed Kamil al-Taib Idris as the country's first prime minister since the outbreak of civil war in April 2023. Idris, a former UN legal adviser, is tasked with forming a transitional government amid ongoing conflict between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The war has displaced nearly 13 million people, with 20,000 deaths reported. His appointment is seen as a step toward restoring civilian-led governance and stabilizing Sudan.



#### **Justice K. Somashekar Appointed Chief Justice of Manipur High Court :-**

Justice Kempaiah Somashekar has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, marking a significant judicial development. His elevation follows the retirement of Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar on May 21, 2025. Previously serving as a judge at the Karnataka High Court, Justice Somashekar has had an extensive legal career, beginning in 1998. His tenure has been marked by expertise in constitutional law, civil litigation, and administrative jurisprudence.



## Ram Mohan Appointed as New Director of MPEDA :-

Ram Mohan M K has been appointed as the new Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), bringing over two decades of expertise in seafood marketing, quality assurance, and international trade. Previously serving as the Resident Director in Tokyo, he played a key role in boosting India's seafood

exports. His appointment is expected to enhance India's global market presence, improve compliance with international seafood quality standards, and drive sustainable growth in marine product exports. The industry anticipates a positive impact under his leadership.

## 4: Awards



## Russian Embassy unveils special plaque honouring Biju Patnaik :-

The Russian Embassy in New Delhi unveiled a memorial plaque in honor of Biju Patnaik, the former Odisha Chief Minister and freedom fighter, recognizing his contributions during World War II. Patnaik played a crucial role in the Stalingrad Operation, supplying weapons to the besieged Red Army. His son, Naveen Patnaik, attended the ceremony, expressing gratitude for the recognition. The event was part of Russia's 80th Anniversary celebrations of the Great Victory in WWII, commemorating global efforts against Nazism.



## **Brazilian Scientist Mariangela Hungria Wins 2025 World Food Prize :-**

Mariangela Hungria, a renowned Brazilian microbiologist, won the 2025 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking research in biological nitrogen fixation. Her work has significantly contributed to sustainable agriculture by helping farmers reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers, improving soil fertility, and increasing crop yields. Her innovations have been particularly influential in soybean farming, making Brazil one of the largest global producers. Hungria's discoveries have had lasting effects on food security, environmental conservation, and economic development, reinforcing the importance of scientific advancements in sustainable food production worldwide.



## **Kabul Chawla receives IGBC fellow award :-**

Kabul Chawla, Chairman & MD of BPTP Ltd., received the IGBC Fellow Award for his contributions to sustainable urban development. His work emphasizes green building technologies, including solar-integrated facades and AI-powered building management systems. Chawla has spearheaded several eco-friendly projects, ensuring

energy-efficient construction practices that align with India's sustainability goals. His recognition by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) highlights his role in pioneering environmentally responsible architecture and promoting resource-efficient real estate development.



#### Miss Estonia bags gold at Miss World 2025 sports challenge in Hyderabad :-

At the prestigious Miss World 2025 pageant held in Hyderabad, Miss Estonia, Eliise Randmaa, made history by winning the gold medal in the Sports Challenge event, thereby securing her country's maiden advance to the quarterfinals in over two decades. The sports challenge, a fast-track event designed to test physical fitness, athletic ability, and competitive spirit among over 100 contestants, included a variety of disciplines such as badminton, sprinting, Zumba sessions, and other team or solo contests.



#### President Murmu Confers Highest Literary Honour to Gulzar & Rambhadracharya :-

In a grand ceremony celebrating India's rich literary tradition, President Droupadi Murmu bestowed the 58th Jnanpith Award—the country's highest literary honor—on two towering figures: poet-lyricist Gulzar and

celebrated Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya. While Gulzar is known for his evocative poetry and memorable film lyrics that have resonated with generations, Rambhadracharya's erudite contributions to Sanskrit literature and spiritual thought have firmly established his legacy.



#### Denzel Washington receives honorary Palme d'Or award at Cannes :-

At the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, acclaimed actor Denzel Washington was unexpectedly honored with an honorary Palme d'Or, an accolade reserved for individuals who have made a profound impact on cinema over their careers. Presented during a star-studded ceremony just before the screening of his latest film, "Highest 2 Lowest," the award was bestowed by festival officials and celebrated by his peers, including director Spike Lee. This recognition, which marks one of only a handful of such honors in the festival's history, underscores Washington's exceptional contributions to film, spanning iconic roles and transformative performances.



#### Punjab ex-CM Charanjit Channi to be given Sansad Ratna Award :-

Former Punjab Chief Minister and current Member of Parliament Charanjit Singh Channi is set to receive the esteemed Sansad Ratna Award, a recognition granted to legislators who exhibit outstanding performance in Parliament. This award honors MPs who excel in debate, raise pertinent issues, and contribute substantively to legislative processes. Channi's selection is particularly notable for his consistent advocacy on agricultural reforms, especially in highlighting farmers' issues, and for being a pioneering leader as Punjab's first Dalit chief minister.



#### Govt announces last date for Padma Awards 2026 nominations :-

The Government of India has announced that nominations for the Padma Awards 2026 will be accepted until July 31, 2025. The awards—Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri—are among India's highest civilian honors, recognizing exceptional contributions in various fields such as art, literature, science, medicine, and social work. The nomination process is open to all citizens, including self-nominations, and submissions must be made through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.



#### Banu Mushtaq Won International Booker Prize 2025 For Heart Lamp :-

Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq has won the 2025 International Booker Prize for her short story collection 'Heart Lamp', translated by Deepa Bhasthi. This marks the first time a Kannada work has won the prestigious award. The book, written over 33 years, explores themes of women's resilience, oppression, and sisterhood in Muslim communities in southern India. Mushtaq, a lawyer and activist, has been a vocal advocate for women's rights, and her stories reflect real-life struggles.



#### President Droupadi Murmu awards 6 Kirti, 33 Shaurya Chakras for gallantry :-

In a solemn and proud investiture ceremony, President Droupadi Murmu conferred six Kirti Chakras—India's prestigious peacetime gallantry award—with several of them awarded posthumously, along with 33 Shaurya Chakras on military and police personnel for acts of exceptional valour. These awards acknowledge the extraordinary courage displayed by the armed forces, police, and security agencies during counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations. The recognition not only honours individual bravery on the front lines but also underlines the nation's commitment to upholding democratic values and protecting its citizens.



**Mohamed Salah Wins FWA Footballer of the Year :-**

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has secured his third FWA Footballer of the Year award, matching Thierry Henry's record. He won 90% of votes, the highest margin this century, after scoring 33 goals and assisting 23 times, helping Liverpool win the Premier League title. His

consistency and attacking prowess have made him a standout performer. Salah expressed gratitude to his teammates, fans, and coaching staff at the award ceremony in London. His achievement solidifies his legacy as one of the greatest forwards in English football, recognized for his remarkable contributions.

**5: Banking****RBI directs banks to ensure ATMs dispense Rs 100, Rs 200 notes :-**

The Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks to guarantee that ATMs dispense Rs 100 or Rs 200 denomination notes in order to increase the public's access to these currencies. Banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAs) must implement the direction gradually. According to the circular, by September 30, 2025, 75% of all ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) will distribute either Rs 100 or Rs 200 banknotes from at least one cassette. By March 31, 2026, 90 per cent of all ATMs shall dispense either Rs 100 or Rs 200 denomination banknotes from at least one cassette.

**SEBI Issues Warning Against 'Opinion Trading' Platforms :-**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a public advisory against emerging 'Opinion Trading' platforms, warning investors about financial risks and regulatory concerns. These platforms allow users to bet on market predictions without actual stock purchases, leading to potential manipulation. SEBI is considering stricter regulations to prevent fraudulent activities. Financial experts caution traders about engaging in high-risk speculative markets without adequate safeguards. The advisory urges citizens to rely on registered and regulated exchanges to ensure safer investment practices in stock markets.

**RBI Launches 3 Key Surveys for Monetary Policy Input :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced three surveys to gather crucial economic data for monetary policy decisions. These include the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households, Urban Consumer Confidence Survey, and Rural Consumer Confidence Survey. They assess price trends, employment scenarios, and spending habits, offering policymakers insights into economic sentiment. The results help the RBI gauge inflation expectations, guiding decisions on interest rates and liquidity management. This initiative ensures a data-driven approach to stabilizing India's economy,

especially amidst global uncertainties impacting financial markets and domestic growth trajectories.



**India's First Gold-Melting ATM Unveiled by Goldsikka :-**  
 Goldsikka has launched India's first AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM, allowing users to buy, sell, and exchange gold securely. The machine melts deposited gold, tests purity, and transfers the monetary equivalent to a bank account. It also features Augmented Reality (AR) for virtual jewelry try-ons. The ATM uses Aadhaar and ID verification for security, preventing fraud and ensuring transparency in gold transactions. This innovation aims to modernize gold trading, offering accessibility and efficiency in financial dealings related to the precious metal.



**Public Sector Banks Clock Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore Profit in FY25 :-**

India's public sector banks (PSBs) collectively reported an all-time high net profit of ₹1.78 lakh crore, a significant 26% increase compared to the previous year. The State Bank of India (SBI) led the earnings, contributing over ₹70,901 crore. This growth comes after years of banking reforms focusing on recapitalization, governance improvements, and digital transformations. Measures like bad loan resolution strategies and efficient credit

distribution helped PSBs recover from losses seen in FY18.



**SBI, Private Lenders Sell 20% of Yes Bank to Japan's SMBC for ₹13,482 Cr :-**

In a landmark banking deal, State Bank of India (SBI) and seven private lenders sold 20% of Yes Bank to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for ₹13,482 crore. SBI offloaded 13.19% stake, while private lenders sold 6.81% stake. This investment boosts Yes Bank's valuation to \$7.9 billion. The acquisition strengthens SMBC's presence in India, aligning with its expansion strategy in South Asia's growing financial market. Regulatory approvals will finalize the deal, potentially reshaping India's private banking landscape with foreign investments.



**Canara, Union Bank announce special deposit schemes to boost growth :-**

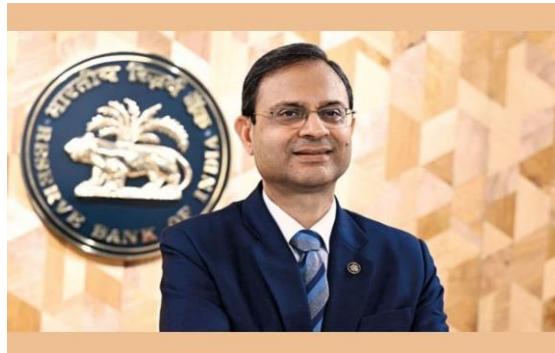
Canara Bank and Union Bank of India have launched special deposit schemes aimed at boosting economic growth and attracting more customers. Union Bank introduced the "Union Wellness Deposit," offering competitive interest rates and health insurance benefits, providing a financial cushion along with medical security. Canara Bank's "TruEdge" deposit scheme features

flexible banking solutions, catering to customers' varying financial needs. These initiatives align with efforts to enhance banking penetration, encourage savings, and support economic stability.



#### **RBI imposes penalty on Deutsche Bank AG, Yes Bank :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined Deutsche Bank AG ₹50 lakh for failing to report credit details of large borrowers to CRLC, violating financial disclosure norms. Yes Bank faced a ₹29.60 lakh penalty for non-compliance with financial statement regulations. These actions ensure transparency and accountability within India's banking sector. RBI's strict supervision aims to maintain financial integrity and prevent misreporting that could affect economic stability. Both banks are expected to enhance their compliance frameworks following this regulatory action.



#### **RBI to Issue New Rs 20 Banknotes with Governor Sanjay Malhotra's Signature :-**

In an update reflecting the routine processes of monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will soon issue new Rs 20 banknotes bearing the signature of its newly appointed Governor, Sanjay Malhotra. While the refreshed notes will continue to showcase the design and security features of the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series as seen in circulation

today, the updated signature signifies the transition in leadership at the RBI. Importantly, all Rs 20 notes issued under previous governors will continue to remain legal tender, ensuring stability and continuity for everyday transactions.



#### **RBI Cancels HCBL Co-operative Bank Licence Over Capital Shortfall :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the banking licence of Lucknow-based HCBL Co-operative Bank due to inadequate capital and poor earnings. The bank failed to comply with the Banking Regulation Act, making it unable to repay depositors. As a result, 98.69% of depositors will receive up to ₹5 lakh in insurance from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). The RBI has requested the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Commissioner to wind up the bank and appoint a liquidator.



#### **RBI Transfers Record ₹2.69 Lakh Crore Surplus to Centre for FY25 :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a historic transfer of ₹2.69 lakh crore as surplus to the central government for FY25. This is the highest-ever transfer recorded, aimed at improving fiscal stability and supporting economic growth. The decision follows an increase in the Contingent Risk Buffer to 7.5%, ensuring

financial resilience. The transfer will aid government spending on infrastructure, welfare programs, and economic reforms, potentially reducing the fiscal deficit.



### LIC Creates History with Guinness World Record in Insurance Sales :-

On January 20, 2025, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) set a Guinness World Record by selling 588,107 life insurance policies in a single day. This achievement was part of the Mad Million Day initiative, led by LIC's MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty. Over 452,839 LIC agents contributed to this milestone, setting a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the insurance industry. The record was officially recognized by Guinness World Records, highlighting LIC's commitment to financial protection for Indian families.

## 6: Books and Author



### National Archives of India Releases Book on Mathematician Ramanujan :-

The National Archives of India has released Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician, offering new insights into the life of Srinivasa Ramanujan. The book explores his mathematical genius and contributions to number theory. Scholars emphasize Ramanujan's impact on modern computational mathematics. The release coincides with efforts to promote STEM education in India. Academicians highlight his story as an inspiration for young minds. The book includes rare archival documents, bringing his legacy closer to readers and reinforcing his status as one of India's greatest intellectuals.



### Andhra Pradesh CM Chandra Babu Naidu unveiled Sharani's 'Mindset Shift' book :-

In a high-profile event, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, alongside renowned cine actor Chiranjeevi, launched Sharani Ponguru's book titled "Mindset Shift." The book, penned by the daughter of a senior minister, is aimed at inspiring a transformation in personal and professional outlook. Naidu highlighted that success hinges on adopting a positive mindset and seizing opportunities with unwavering determination—a philosophy he has practiced for nearly five decades. The launch not only celebrated literary achievement but also reinforced the belief that a paradigm shift in mindset can catalyze social and economic progress.



**Sanjay Raut's book 'Narkatala Swarg' to be released on May 17 :-**

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut is set to release *Narkatala Swarg*, a memoir detailing his 100-day imprisonment following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. Published by New Era Publishing House, the book narrates political pressures, personal struggles, and democratic challenges faced during his incarceration. The launch event in Mumbai will feature key political figures like Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. The book is anticipated to spark discussions on political vendettas and governance issues, shedding light on contemporary political dynamics.



**Book on Bengaluru bus stories released to showcase public transport in positive light :-**

The book "Bengaluru Bus Stories," compiled by volunteers from NGO Samvada, was launched to highlight the positive impact of Bengaluru's public transport. Featuring narratives from daily commuters, it aims to shift the perception of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses from inefficiency to an essential public service. The collection underscores buses as community spaces fostering social interaction

and inclusivity. The initiative seeks to promote public transport adoption and environmental sustainability, reinforcing its role in urban mobility.



**Former CJI Chandrachud Attended launch of The Indian Express journalist's book :-**

Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud attended the launch of journalist Kaunain Sheriff M's book, *The Johnson & Johnson Files: The Indian Secrets of a Global Giant*. The book investigates the sale of faulty hip implants by Johnson & Johnson in India, exposing regulatory lapses. Chandrachud praised the work, calling it a "call to conscience," emphasizing the role of investigative journalism in holding corporations accountable. The launch event discussed the broader implications of corporate malpractices in healthcare.



**Coffee table book capturing the CM M.K. Stalin's political journey launched in Chennai :-**

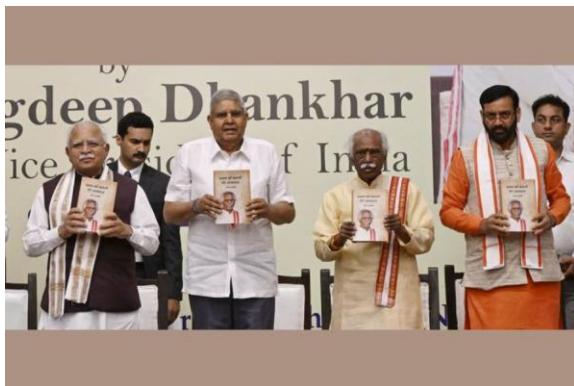
A coffee table book titled "M.K. Stalin: The Modern Dravidian Icon" was launched in Chennai, marking 50 years of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's public service. The book, released by The Week, chronicles Stalin's journey from his early political involvement inspired by his father, M. Karunanidhi, to his tenure as

Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister. It includes essays from fellow politicians, teachers, friends, and family members, offering insights into his leadership, personal life, and commitment to Dravidian ideals.



#### Justice Ramana's Book 'Narratives off the Bench' Launched :-

Former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana launched his book "Narratives off the Bench – A Judge Speaks", a compilation of his speeches and reflections on judicial matters. The book highlights systemic issues such as judicial infrastructure, diversity, and accessibility to justice. Justice Ramana emphasized that the judiciary is a beacon of hope for the common man and addressed concerns about unwarranted attacks on the institution. The launch event featured Supreme Court judges, including Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, who praised Ramana's contributions to legal discourse and judicial accountability.



#### Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar releases Haryana Governor's book 'Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha' :-

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar released the autobiography of Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, titled 'Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha', at an event in Delhi. The book provides insights into Dattatraya's life,

political journey, and experiences. The book aims to inspire readers about political perseverance and responsibility. The Vice-President praised the book for its historical significance and personal reflections on public service. The event also included tributes to victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack, highlighting the nation's resilience.



#### Book launch of 'Our Living Constitution: A Concise Introduction and Commentary' by Shashi Tharoor :-

Shashi Tharoor released his latest book, "Our Living Constitution: A Concise Introduction and Commentary", in New Delhi. The book serves as an insightful guide to India's Constitution, explaining its origins, structure, amendments, and real-world applications. Tharoor emphasizes the dynamic nature of the Constitution, showcasing its ability to adapt to societal changes while preserving democratic principles. The book aims to foster greater civic awareness by helping readers understand their rights and responsibilities within India's constitutional framework.



#### Two books by Kannada writer Satyanarayana Rao Anathi launched in Shivamogga :-

Veteran Kannada writer Satyanarayana Rao Anathi has launched Mouna Migilu, a poetry collection, and

Neelanjan Manimekhalai, a theatrical play. The books, unveiled in Shivamogga, explore themes of philosophy, tradition, and contemporary issues. Anathi's literary contributions span decades, deeply influencing Kannada literature. The event featured prominent writers and dramatists who praised his storytelling and linguistic artistry. His poetry captures human emotions with intricate metaphors, while his play reflects social narratives.



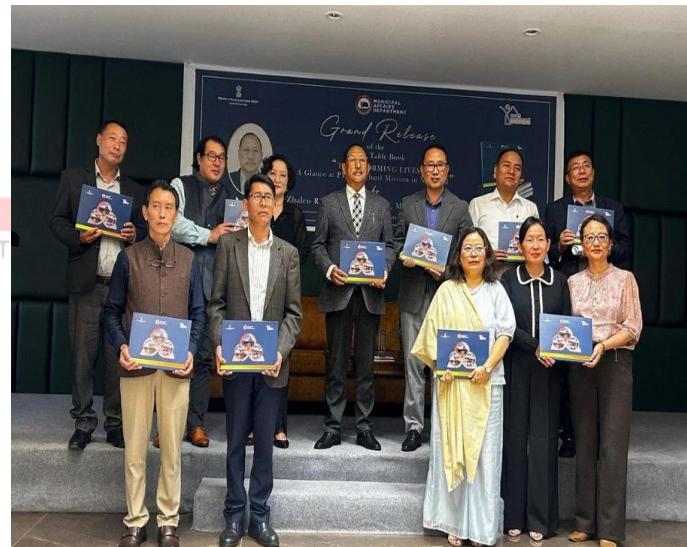
### Centurion University Chancellor releases book by word analyst Narasimham on English language :-

Centurion University Chancellor G.S.N. Raju launched "A Different Approach to Learn English with Fun", authored by R.U. Narasimham, at SITAM College, Vizianagaram. The book presents innovative techniques for mastering English in a fun and engaging way. Narasimham, known for his expertise in word analysis, emphasizes the importance of enjoying language learning rather than treating it as an academic burden. As part of this initiative, SITAM College has established English language clubs to help students improve their fluency.



### 'Original Sin' Book By Journalists Alex Thompson And Jake Tapper :-

CNN journalists Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson have written "Original Sin: President Biden's Decline, Its Cover-Up, and His Disastrous Choice to Run Again." This investigative book is based on over 200 interviews and provides insights into behind-the-scenes efforts by Biden's advisors to manage concerns about his health and leadership. It explores internal Democratic Party struggles and how they handled Biden's re-election bid amidst growing uncertainties. The book sheds light on the political and media responses, offering an analysis of governance decisions and public perception.



### PMAY-U Coffee Table Book Released in Kohima to Highlight Urban Housing Progress :-

Nagaland's government launched "Transforming Lives: A Glance of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)", documenting urban housing successes in Kohima. The book highlights PMAY-U's impact on providing affordable homes, featuring real-life stories and government initiatives. Released by Zhaleo Rio, Advisor for Municipal Affairs, it showcases how the mission transforms lives, improving urban infrastructure and livelihoods. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to housing for all, ensuring sustainable urban development while promoting awareness of the program's achievements across Nagaland's municipalities.

## 7: Defence



### CBI Cracks Down on Global Child Exploitation Network

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has dismantled an international child exploitation network under Operation Hawk 2025. Investigations spanned multiple nations, leading to arrests of key suspects involved in online trafficking. Authorities seized large volumes of illicit digital material and dismantled underground communication networks used for criminal activities. The crackdown highlights India's growing cooperation with global agencies in tackling cybercrime. Officials emphasize the need for stronger cybersecurity laws to prevent exploitation. Human rights activists commend the move, urging continued vigilance and stringent policies.



### Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari Appointed Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force :-

Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari's appointment as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is a testament to his distinguished service and extensive expertise in aerial warfare and aviation technology. Having advanced through roles that include commanding the South

Western Air Command, Tiwari is renowned for his operational acumen. With over 3,600 hours of flying experience and significant contributions during critical missions—such as operationalizing key systems in the Kargil conflict—his rise to the vice-chief role reinforces continuity and innovation at the top levels of the IAF.



### HAL clears Army and Air Force versions of Dhruv helicopter :-

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) issued an official clearance for the Army and Air Force variants of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv to resume operations. This decision follows a comprehensive investigation conducted by a Defect Investigation (DI) Committee after a previous incident led to the grounding of these helicopters. The clearance comes as part of a structured, time-bound plan developed in collaboration with the armed forces, aimed at restoring operational readiness after the tragic crash that had raised safety concerns.



### India Closes Chenab Water Through Baglihar Dam Gates

India has restricted Chenab River's water flow to Pakistan by shutting Baglihar and Salal Dam gates, citing security concerns after the Pahalgam terror attack. This move follows India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, impacting Pakistan's agricultural sector, which depends on Chenab's water supply. Satellite images show declining water levels downstream, raising concerns over water scarcity. Experts predict a diplomatic fallout, with Pakistan likely to seek intervention from international bodies to resolve the escalating water dispute.



#### DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight of Stratospheric Airship Platform :-

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight trial of its Stratospheric Airship Platform, reaching an altitude of 17 km. Designed for long-endurance surveillance, the airship offers real-time intelligence gathering. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the achievement, emphasizing its strategic importance for national security. The platform, capable of advanced earth observation, enhances India's reconnaissance capabilities. Experts see it as a significant development in high-altitude unmanned aerial systems.



#### India Gears Up for Nationwide Civil Defence Drills Amid Rising Tensions with Pakistan :-

India will conduct nationwide civil defence drills across 244 districts on May 7, featuring air raid sirens, evacuation drills, and blackout simulations. The exercises aim to prepare civilians for war-like scenarios, reflecting rising tensions with Pakistan post-Pahalgam terror attack. The drills focus on disaster readiness, emergency response coordination, and public safety. Officials stress that this is a precautionary measure, ensuring preparedness without signaling immediate conflict escalation. The drills highlight India's commitment to civilian security.



#### India-Maldives Strengthen Defence Ties through HADR Exercise :-

India and the Maldives are conducting a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise from May 4 to May 10. It involved INS Sharda, focusing on disaster response, medical aid, and rescue operations. The exercise supports India's MAHASAGAR vision, ensuring regional security in the Indian Ocean Region. Collaboration enhances interoperability, crisis management skills, and emergency preparedness. Both nations aim to improve maritime cooperation and strengthen disaster resilience against cyclones, floods, and environmental hazards.



### India Strengthens Maritime Surveillance with HawkEye 360 Technology Deal :-

India secured a \$131 million deal with the US for HawkEye 360 technology, enhancing maritime surveillance. The system uses satellites in Low Earth Orbit to track illegal fishing, smuggling, and "dark ships" disabling trackers. It boosts national security and regional intelligence, aiding naval operations in the Indo-Pacific. Data from radio frequency emissions helps detect unauthorized activities, strengthening India's maritime dominance. The agreement aligns with India's strategic goals, improving coastal monitoring and safeguarding national interests against evolving threats at sea.



### Operation Sindo: India Strikes Back in Pakistan and PoK :-

India launched Operation Sindo, targeting nine terrorist sites in Pakistan and PoK after the Paalgam attack. The precision strikes avoided military facilities, focusing on insurgent hideouts. The operation reinforces India's counter-terrorism stance, demonstrating swift retaliation while maintaining strategic restraint. Analysts see it as a deterrent against future attacks. Diplomatic tensions rise, but India's leadership emphasizes self-defense and regional stability. The response highlights India's commitment to national security, showcasing advanced military capabilities in conducting surgical operations against threats.



### Indian Army Destroys Multiple Pakistani Military Posts

In response to ceasefire violations, the Indian Army launched targeted strikes, destroying Pakistani military posts along the Line of Control (LoC). The operation aimed to counter cross-border aggression and prevent infiltration by hostile forces. It is not known in which sector the Pakistani post was destroyed, but it highlights that the Indian Army is giving an effective reply to the continuous ceasefire violations. Reports suggest significant damage to enemy positions, intensifying geopolitical tensions.



### Pakistan and India agree 'immediate ceasefire':-

India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire following escalating tensions triggered by a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack, which killed 26 civilians, led India to launch precision strikes on terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Pakistan retaliated with drone attacks, increasing fears of further conflict. The United States played a key role in mediating the ceasefire, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD

Vance engaging in talks with senior officials from both countries.



#### **Operation Keller: Indian Army kills 3 terrorists during encounter in J&K's Shopian :-**

In a highly coordinated operation, Indian security forces launched Operation Keller in Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir, based on intelligence reports suggesting terrorist activity in the area. The Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police, assisted by CRPF, engaged in a gunfight that lasted several hours. Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, reportedly involved in attacks on civilians and forces, were neutralized. Security forces recovered assault rifles, grenades, and communication devices. Officials emphasized that counterterrorism efforts remain a top priority in Kashmir.



#### **Indian Army, NDRF conducts Exercise Raahat :-**

The Indian Army's Spear Corps, in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), conducted Exercise Raahat in Nagaland. The drill focused on disaster preparedness, rescue operations, and inter-agency coordination in crisis situations. Training included simulations of flood rescues, equipment demonstrations, and strategic planning for emergency response. The exercise aims to strengthen India's disaster management capabilities, ensuring rapid and efficient responses to natural calamities. Such initiatives help improve communication and collaboration between military and civilian agencies for effective disaster relief.



#### **Trump unveils plans for 'Golden Dome' missile defence system :-**

US President Donald Trump recently unveiled an ambitious and futuristic project dubbed the "Golden Dome" missile defence system. This initiative is designed to establish a fully integrated, multi-domain shield capable of intercepting a wide range of missile threats—from short-range cruise and ballistic missiles to advanced hypersonic weapons—through coordinated land-, sea-, and space-based assets. By incorporating cutting-edge sensors, artificial intelligence, and state-of-the-art interceptor technology, the plan marks a transformative leap over existing systems that many experts deem outdated.

## 8: Economy



### India's Coal Sector Shows Strong Growth Momentum in April 2025 :-

India's coal production increased from 78.71 million tonnes (MT) in April 2025 to 81.57 MT (Provisional) in the same period the year before. In FY 2025–26, production from captive and other entity mines in April 2025 was 14.51 MT (Provisional), a considerable increase over the 11.46 MT produced in the same period the previous year. India's total coal dispatch in April 2025 reached 86.64 MT (Provisional), reflecting a steady increase from 85.11 MT recorded in April 2024.



### India Notifies Sugar Control Order :-

The Indian government has introduced the Sugar (Control) Order 2025, aimed at regulating raw sugar production and ensuring fair prices for farmers. It mandates Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) payments for sugarcane supplied to large khandsari units, including by-products like ethanol and molasses under regulatory purview. The initiative seeks to eliminate misleading labeling, enhance transparency in the sugar industry, and support farmers with sustainable pricing models. The

policy is expected to strengthen India's sugar economy, ensuring equitable distribution practices.



### India's mineral production surges to all-time high in 2024-25 :-

India's mineral production reached a record high in 2024-25, driven by increased output in iron ore, manganese, bauxite, lead, aluminum, and copper. Iron ore production hit 289 MMT, up 4.3%, fueling growth in steel and infrastructure sectors. Government incentives, improved logistics, and foreign investments boosted production. Rising global demand strengthens India's position in critical mineral exports, benefiting manufacturing, construction, and energy sectors. Sustainable mining practices gain traction, ensuring environmental compliance while expanding resource extraction for industrial growth.



### Ant Group to Sell 4% Stake in Paytm Worth ₹2,066 Crore via Bulk Deal :-

Chinese fintech giant Ant Group, affiliated with Alibaba, plans to sell 4% of its stake in Paytm via a bulk deal worth

₹2,066 crore. The sale includes 25.5 million shares at a floor price of ₹809.75 per share, reflecting a 6.5% discount to Paytm's closing price. Goldman Sachs and Citigroup are managing the transaction. Ant Group's decision aligns with its strategy to streamline investments. This stake reduction will reshape Paytm's ownership structure, influencing market confidence, liquidity trends, and broader fintech industry dynamics in India.



#### India's Pharma Industry Faces Fresh Challenges After Trump's Drug Order :-

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating US drug prices match the lowest rates offered in other developed nations. This poses a challenge for Indian pharmaceutical companies, which provide cost-effective generic drugs to the US market. The policy could pressure Indian manufacturers to further reduce prices, impacting profit margins. Additionally, increased patent protection demands by US pharma giants may affect drug exports. Indian firms must adopt cost-saving measures and explore new international markets to maintain their foothold in global pharmaceuticals.



#### Cabinet Approves Rs 3,706 Cr HCL-Foxconn Chip Plant in Jewar :-

The Union Cabinet's approval of a Rs 3,706 crore semiconductor plant in Jewar marks a significant step in India's efforts to develop a robust microchip industry. The joint venture between HCL and Foxconn aims to manufacture display driver chips for smartphones, laptops, and automobiles, reducing reliance on imports. This initiative will create over 2,000 jobs and establish India as a key player in semiconductor production. The project aligns with the government's "Make in India" vision, fostering domestic innovation, technological self-sufficiency, and economic growth in the electronics sector.



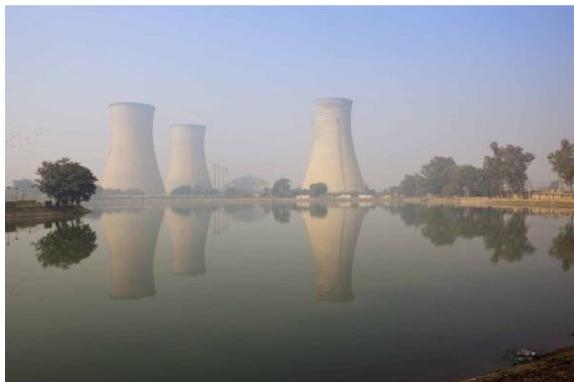
#### India Records 9.2% Drop in Coal Imports During April 2024–February 2025 :-

India recorded a 9.2% drop in coal imports during April 2024–February 2025, signaling increased reliance on domestic coal production. The decline, amounting to a reduction of 220.3 million tonnes, has saved the country Rs 53,138 crore in foreign exchange. Enhanced domestic coal mining efforts contributed to this shift, supporting the government's initiatives to reduce import dependency while maintaining energy security. This development aligns with India's long-term sustainability goals, reducing carbon emissions while ensuring an uninterrupted coal supply for power generation and industrial use, strengthening the nation's energy independence.



### India's Exports Surge 9% in April 2025 Amid US Tariff Uncertainty :-

India's exports rose 9% in April 2025, reaching \$38.49 billion, the highest in six months. Growth was driven by electronics and engineering goods, particularly to the US, which saw a 27% increase despite impending tariff concerns. Indian exporters expedited shipments to avoid potential trade barriers, contributing to the sharp rise. Government policies promoting trade diversification also helped strengthen export growth, ensuring resilience amid global uncertainties. The upward trend reflects India's competitiveness in international markets, emphasizing strategic positioning amid shifting global trade dynamics.



### India Opens Nuclear Energy Sector to Private Operators with Liability Reform :-

In a landmark policy shift aimed at modernizing its energy landscape, the Government of India is preparing to open its nuclear energy sector to private operators. This initiative involves key amendments to longstanding legislations such as the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, which have historically restricted nuclear operations to public sector

undertakings. By capping the liability exposure for equipment vendors, the reforms are designed to attract private investments and foster technology transfers from foreign partners, thereby boosting capacity and operational efficiency.



### FSSAI calls for crackdown on illegal fruit ripening practices :-

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an urgent directive to state governments and food safety officials to curb the illegal use of non-permitted substances for fruit ripening. The authority specifically warned against calcium carbide, a chemical commonly used to accelerate fruit ripening but linked to serious health risks such as respiratory problems and carcinogenic effects. The directive aims to enforce strict compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, under which offenders face heavy penalties.



### India Takes Over Chairmanship of Asian Productivity Organization for 2025-26 :-

India's assumption of the chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the 2025-26 term is a landmark development that underscores the country's commitment to regional economic progress and capacity

building. The APO, a Tokyo-based intergovernmental body, promotes productivity enhancement through cooperative initiatives across Asia-Pacific nations. Under India's leadership, the agenda is expected to focus on digital transformation, sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship—all intended to boost productivity across key sectors such as industry, agriculture, and services.



#### India Surpasses Japan to Become the World's 4th Largest Economy :-

India has officially overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, according to the latest data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). India's nominal GDP is now estimated at \$4.187 trillion, slightly surpassing Japan's \$4.186 trillion. This milestone reflects India's rapid economic growth, driven by strong domestic consumption, digital innovation, and manufacturing expansion. The country is projected to grow at 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026, significantly outpacing global growth forecasts. Experts believe that India could surpass Germany to become the third-largest economy by 2027, further solidifying its position as a global economic powerhouse.



#### Greenko, Adani, JSW to build bulk of India's 51 GW pumped storage pipeline :-

India is planning a tenfold increase in pumped storage hydropower capacity by 2032, with 51 GW of projects in development. Leading this transformation are Greenko (13.2 GW), Adani Green (11.4 GW), and JSW Energy (7.7 GW), which together will develop nearly two-thirds of the total capacity. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra will host 57% of these projects. Pumped storage plays a crucial role in balancing India's power grid, especially with the increasing integration of solar and wind energy. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) expects 39 projects to be commissioned by 2032, with 10 GW already under construction.



#### BSNL Posts Back-to-Back Profits for First Time in 18 Years :-

For the first time since 2007, BSNL has reported consecutive quarterly profits, signaling a major turnaround in its financial performance. In Q4 FY 2024–25, BSNL posted a ₹280 crore profit, following a ₹262 crore profit in Q3, marking an end to nearly two decades of losses. This improvement stems from cost-cutting measures, government-backed restructuring efforts, and the rapid expansion of 4G and 5G services. The company has successfully enhanced operational efficiency while boosting revenue through fiber broadband and strategic collaborations with private firms.



#### India Secures Record \$81.04 Billion in FDI in FY 2024–25

India recorded an all-time high \$81.04 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during FY 2024–25, reflecting a significant 14% growth compared to the previous fiscal year. Key sectors driving this surge include services, software, hardware, and manufacturing, indicating global investor confidence in India's economic stability and reforms. Singapore retained its position as the top investor, followed by the USA, Japan, and the UK. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat emerged as leading states attracting FDI inflows due to strong infrastructure and business-friendly policies.



#### India's Coal Imports Decline by 7.9% in FY 2024–25 :-

India's coal imports fell by 7.9% in FY 2024–25, totaling 243.62 million tonnes (MT) compared to 264.53 MT in the previous fiscal year. This decline is attributed to increased domestic coal production, government initiatives promoting self-sufficiency, and policies such as commercial mining and Mission Coking Coal. The reduction in imports helped India save approximately \$7.93 billion in foreign exchange, strengthening energy security and reducing dependence on international suppliers. India's coal production rose due to efforts by Coal India Limited (CIL) and private companies focusing on sustainable extraction and efficiency improvements.

## 9: International



#### Nepal to Restrict Mt. Everest Permits :-

According to a proposed regulation aimed at decreasing overcrowding and boosting safety, Nepal would only give Everest permits to climbers who have scaled at least one of the Himalayan nation's 7,000-meter (22,965-foot) peaks. Nepal, which relies significantly on climbing, hiking, and tourism for foreign cash, has faced criticism for allowing an excessive number of climbers, especially

novice ones, to attempt to conquer the 8,849-meter (29,032 ft) mountain. This often results in long queues of climbers in the "Death Zone," an area below the summit with insufficient natural oxygen for survival.



#### Kamla Persad-Bissessar Elected As Prime Minister Of Trinidad And Tobago :-

Kamla Persad-Bissessar has won the 2025 general elections, reclaiming leadership in Trinidad and Tobago. Defeating the ruling People's National Movement (PNM),

her victory signifies a political shift, with promises of economic revitalization and social welfare reforms. Persad-Bissessar previously served as Prime Minister from 2010 to 2015, known for progressive governance and strong international ties. India acknowledged her win, reaffirming diplomatic relations. The election reflects public dissatisfaction with previous administration policies, paving the way for her leadership in addressing economic challenges, youth employment, and infrastructure development.



#### Lakkundi Group of Monuments Proposed for UNESCO Tentative List :-

The government of India, in collaboration with heritage conservation bodies like INTACH, has shortlisted the historic monuments of Lakkundi for inclusion in UNESCO's tentative list. Dating from the 10th to 12th centuries and built during the Kalyana Chalukya period, these temples and stepped tanks showcase a unique fusion of architectural styles—combining elements of Nagara, Dravida, and Bhumija traditions—to create the distinct vesara style. The proposal highlights not only the ecological and cultural significance of these monuments but also their importance as witnesses to an influential era in Indian history.



#### Anthony Albanese Re-elected As Australian PM in Landslide Victory :-

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has secured re-election with a landslide victory, marking his second consecutive term. His Labor Party expanded its parliamentary majority, defeating opposition leader Peter Dutton. Albanese's tenure has been characterized by economic stability, diplomatic strengthening, and progressive domestic reforms. His victory underscores public approval of policies addressing climate change, healthcare, and economic resilience. Australia's commitment to international partnerships, including strong ties with India, is likely to continue under his leadership, reinforcing bilateral cooperation and global influence.



#### North Korea and Russia Begin Construction of Road Link

North Korea and Russia have commenced construction on their first road bridge over the Tumen River, enhancing trade and connectivity. The 1-km-long structure, expected to be completed in 18 months, will facilitate tourism and commodity circulation. This development strengthens ties between the two nations amid geopolitical tensions, following North Korea's reported military support for Russia's war efforts. The bridge aims to boost economic exchanges while reinforcing Russia-North Korea relations, furthering their strategic alliance in trade and infrastructure collaboration.



### PAP secures landslide victory in Singapore General Election :-

Singapore's People's Action Party (PAP), led by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, secured a sweeping victory by winning 87 out of 97 parliamentary seats. The election, held amid economic uncertainties, reaffirmed PAP's dominance, reflecting voter confidence in its leadership. Wong emphasized policies tackling cost-of-living concerns, housing issues, and national security. The opposition, though stronger than in previous elections, failed to disrupt PAP's stronghold. The win solidifies Wong's leadership, ensuring continuity in governance, economic development, and Singapore's global standing.



### Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost Elected New Pope :-

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, an American missionary, was elected Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first American Pope in Catholic history. Known for his missionary work in Peru, Prevost previously led the Dicastery for Bishops, overseeing clergy appointments globally. His election signals a focus on church unity, social justice, and modernizing religious engagement. The new Pope is expected to tackle contemporary challenges, including

ethical dilemmas, youth engagement, and global humanitarian issues.



### Vietnam proposes 10-year Golden Visa program to boost trade and tourism :-

Vietnam has introduced a 10-year Golden Visa program aimed at attracting long-term tourists, investors, and foreign professionals. The initiative seeks to enhance Vietnam's global appeal and strengthen economic ties with countries like India. The visa will provide renewable residency for individuals contributing to tourism, innovation, and economic development. Improved flight connectivity and digital-friendly visa processes are expected to make Vietnam a preferred destination for Indian entrepreneurs and professionals.



### IMF Loan Approved: Pakistan Secures \$1 Billion Amid India's Objections :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1 billion bailout loan to Pakistan, part of a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) designed to stabilize its struggling economy. India opposed the decision, citing concerns over Pakistan's failure to fulfill past IMF conditions and potential misuse of funds. India abstained from voting, arguing that Pakistan needs stronger fiscal

discipline before receiving further international aid. The loan aims to help Pakistan meet debt repayments, boost foreign reserves, and control inflation. However, geopolitical tensions raise concerns about regional economic stability.



#### Taliban Suspends Chess in Afghanistan Over Sharia Law Concerns :-

The Taliban government has officially banned chess in Afghanistan, claiming it promotes gambling, which is forbidden under Sharia law. Afghan religious scholars have argued that chess distracts people from religious obligations, leading to its suspension. This move aligns with the Taliban's previous bans on music, entertainment, and certain sports, reflecting their strict interpretation of Islamic law. Chess was one of the few accessible recreational activities for Afghan youth, and its ban has sparked international criticism.



#### India Rolls Over \$50 Million Treasury Bill to Support Debt-Ridden Maldives :-

India extended financial aid to the Maldives by rolling over a \$50 million Treasury Bill, subscribed by the State Bank of India (SBI). This move supports the Maldivian government's fiscal reforms, ensuring financial stability amid economic challenges. The gesture strengthens

bilateral relations, demonstrating India's commitment to regional cooperation. With ongoing development projects between both nations, financial assistance underscores strategic partnerships. India has historically assisted its neighbors in economic recovery, reinforcing diplomatic trust and stability across South Asia through financial policies and structured economic collaboration.



#### US Bill proposes 5% tax on foreign money transfers :-

A new legislative proposal in the United States Congress has sparked significant concern among immigrant communities worldwide by seeking to impose a 5% excise tax on international remittances sent by non-US citizens. If enacted, this measure—part of a wider policy package aimed at curbing capital outflows and bolstering domestic revenues—would directly affect millions of workers on non-immigrant visas and green card holders. With sub-Saharan and South Asian countries, including India, receiving billions of dollars in remittances annually, the tax could reduce the financial support sent home, affecting household food security, education, and health care.



#### Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupts again :-

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a twin-peaked volcano in Flores, Indonesia, erupted multiple times over the

weekend, sending ash clouds up to 5.5 km into the sky. Authorities have raised the alert level to the highest tier and expanded the exclusion zone to a 6 km radius. The eruption has disrupted air travel, with the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) issuing a red alert. Residents have been advised to evacuate due to potential cold lava flows triggered by heavy rainfall. Indonesia, located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, frequently experiences volcanic activity.



#### **India Welcomes UK's Decision on Chagos Islands Handover :-**

India warmly welcomes the United Kingdom's decision to hand over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius—a move seen as an important step in redressing the legacy of colonialism. For decades, India has supported Mauritius's claim over the Chagos Archipelago based on principles of decolonisation, territorial integrity, and self-determination. The decision is significant not only for its symbolic value in closing a contentious chapter in colonial history but also for its potential impact on regional stability in the Indian Ocean.



#### **Trump Warns Of 25% Tariff On Apple If iPhones Not Made In US :-**

In a bold and highly consequential declaration, US President Donald Trump warned that Apple could face a

punitive 25% tariff on all iPhones sold in America if they are manufactured outside the United States. This pronouncement, aimed at compelling companies to relocate production back on American soil, reflects Trump's staunch economic nationalism and his longstanding campaign to bolster domestic manufacturing. If implemented, the tariff could disrupt global supply chains and potentially drive up consumer prices, forcing a strategic reassessment by multinational corporations like Apple.



#### **Saudi Arabia Launches TOURISE to Shape the Future of Global Tourism :-**

Saudi Arabia has introduced TOURISE, a visionary initiative designed to transform global tourism over the next 50 years. The platform seeks to bring together tourism leaders, investors, technology pioneers, and policymakers to foster sustainable and innovative tourism solutions. By promoting cutting-edge advancements and economic collaborations, Saudi Arabia aims to strengthen its position as a leading tourism hub. The initiative will address key industry challenges, enhance digital tourism experiences, and create new investment opportunities, shaping the future of travel worldwide.



### China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Expands to Afghanistan :-

China and Pakistan have agreed to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan, marking a significant geopolitical shift in the region. The move aims to enhance trade, infrastructure, and development cooperation among the three nations. However, India has consistently opposed CPEC, as parts of the project pass through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which India considers its sovereign territory. The expansion of CPEC into Afghanistan could strengthen China's influence in South Asia while raising concerns for India regarding regional security and economic competition.



### Pakistan Thanks Turkey for Support Amid India's Operation Sindoora :-

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul, expressing gratitude for Turkey's support during India's Operation

Sindoora. Operation Sindoora was India's military response to terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK, following the Pahalgam terror attack. Turkey's backing of Pakistan has led to diplomatic tensions between India and Turkey, with India urging Turkey to take a stronger stance against cross-border terrorism. The meeting between Sharif and Erdogan reaffirmed their countries' strategic partnership, further complicating regional dynamics.



### Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Discover Oil in Neutral Zone After 5 Years :-

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have jointly discovered new oil reserves in the Partitioned Neutral Zone, specifically in the North Wafra Wara-Burgan field. This is the first major find since production resumed in 2020, following a five-year pause due to technical and diplomatic issues. The discovered well yields over 500 barrels per day, reinforcing the region's strategic significance in global energy markets. The find strengthens bilateral cooperation, ensuring energy security and stability.

## 10: Miscellaneous



### IndusInd Bank MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigns :-

Sumant Kathpalia, Managing Director and CEO of IndusInd Bank, has resigned, ushering in a major leadership transition at India's fifth-largest private lender. This announcement comes just one day after Deputy CEO Arun Khurana resigned over disclosures of accounting irregularities in the bank's derivatives portfolio. The developments stem from an independent examination by a professional firm engaged by the bank's board on March 20, 2025. The firm submitted its report on April 26, confirming that incorrect accounting

practices led to an adverse cumulative impact of Rs 1,959.98 crore on the bank's profit and loss account as of March 31, 2025.



#### **Kapil Dev Joins SoBo Mumbai Falcons as Brand Ambassador:-**

Cricket icon Kapil Dev, whose leadership and legacy have inspired generations, has been appointed as the official brand ambassador for the SoBo Mumbai Falcons ahead of the T20 Mumbai League. His association with the franchise not only helps bolster its image and credibility but also promises to bring invaluable experience and mentorship to the young and enthusiastic players. As a symbol of Indian cricket's storied past, Kapil Dev's role is expected to drive team spirit, enhance on-field performance, and attract widespread attention from fans and sponsors alike.



#### **India Recalls IMF Executive Director K.V. Subramanian Ahead of Tenure End :-**

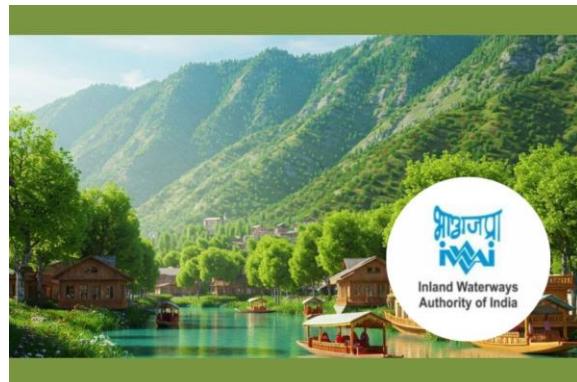
India has recalled K.V. Subramanian from his role as IMF Executive Director, six months before his tenure's end. Reports suggest his critique of IMF datasets and the promotion of his book India @ 100 contributed to the decision. His recall precedes crucial discussions on India's economic policies and Pakistan's loan review meeting.

Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed to temporarily represent India at the IMF. The sudden recall has sparked speculation on India's diplomatic strategies and future IMF engagements.



#### **Union Minister Manohar Lal Inaugurates 'Bharat Bodh Kendra' at India Habitat Centre :-**

Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the Bharat Bodh Kendra, a new cultural initiative at India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. The center aims to promote India's historical and philosophical heritage, providing resources on Indian music, art, literature, spirituality, and science. Scholars, artists, and policymakers attended the event, discussing India's civilizational values. The center will host lectures, exhibitions, and workshops to engage visitors in India's cultural evolution. Sh. Manohar Lal praised IHC's commitment to environmental consciousness, urging similar efforts nationwide.



#### **IWAI Opens Srinagar Office to Boost Inland Waterways in Jammu & Kashmir :-**

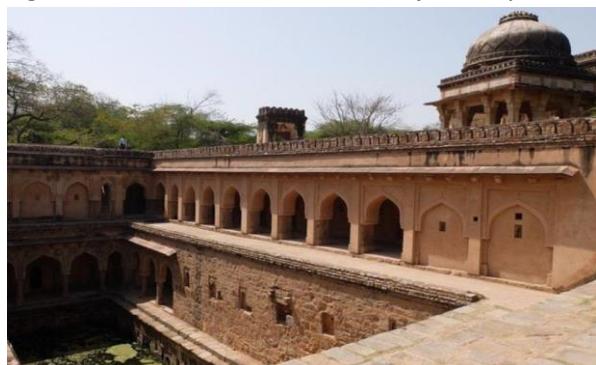
The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) opened its Srinagar office to improve inland waterway infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative will enhance navigation facilities on Rivers Chenab, Jhelum,

and Ravi, promoting eco-tourism and commercial transportation. IWAI has signed an MoU with the J&K government to develop floating jetties, conduct hydrographic surveys, and establish navigational fairways, boosting regional trade opportunities. The move aligns with India's larger objective of modernizing waterways to reduce transportation costs, improve connectivity, and create sustainable economic opportunities in the northern region.



#### Justice Bela M. Trivedi Bids Farewell to Supreme Court

Justice Bela M. Trivedi retired after an impactful tenure, serving three-and-a-half years on the Supreme Court. She played a key role in landmark cases, including Scheduled Caste sub-classifications and constitutional interpretations. Her retirement sparked debate after the Supreme Court Bar Association did not host an official farewell event, criticized by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai. Trivedi's judicial career was marked by her commitment to fairness and progressive legal reasoning, making significant contributions to India's judiciary.



#### Archaeological Survey of India restores 16th-century stepwell in Delhi's Mehrauli :-

In an admirable effort to preserve the nation's historical and environmental heritage, the Archaeological Survey

of India has completed the restoration of the iconic 16th-century stepwell known as Rajon Ki Baoli, located in Delhi's Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Originally constructed during the Lodi dynasty, the structure once functioned as a vital water reservoir and a resting spot for travellers. The extensive restoration project, costing Rs 125 crore, involved a thorough cleaning and desilting, structural repairs using authentic lime plaster and traditional mortar, and the installation of updated drainage systems.



#### GeM Celebrates 8th Incorporation Day with GeMAI Chatbot Launch :-

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) marked its 8th Incorporation Day by launching GeMAI, India's first AI-powered chatbot for public procurement. The chatbot provides real-time assistance to buyers and sellers, supporting voice and text interactions in 10 Indian languages. GeM has onboarded over 10 lakh Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), 1.3 lakh artisans and weavers, and 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs, making procurement more inclusive. The platform has significantly reduced transaction costs and facilitated high-value procurements, including ₹5,800 crore for Akash Missile System equipment.



### Supreme Court Mandates Three Years of Legal Practice for Judicial Service Entry :-

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that candidates aspiring to enter judicial services must have a minimum of three years of legal practice before appointment as judges. This decision reinstates an earlier requirement removed in 2002, ensuring that judicial officers possess firsthand experience in legal proceedings before assuming adjudicative responsibilities. The ruling comes in response to concerns regarding the effectiveness of fresh law graduates directly entering judicial service without practical courtroom exposure. By mandating professional experience, the court aims to enhance judicial competence, reducing delays in case disposal due to inexperienced judgments.



### Konkan Railway Set to Merge with Indian Railways :-

The anticipated merger of the Konkan Railway with Indian Railways represents a strategic realignment intended to overcome financial constraints and optimize infrastructure and operational efficiency. The Konkan Railway, renowned for its engineering marvels—including numerous bridges, tunnels, and scenic routes through the Western Ghats—has long operated as a distinct entity despite its strategic significance to regional connectivity. By merging with the vast network of the Indian Railways, the Konkan track stands to benefit from centralized funding, modern management practices.



### Karnataka Appoints Tamannaah Bhatia As Mysore Sandal Soap Brand Ambassador :-

The Karnataka government has chosen Bollywood actress Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for Mysore Sandal Soap, a century-old indigenous brand. The decision aims to modernize the brand image and expand its market reach beyond Karnataka. However, the move has faced backlash from pro-Kannada activists who argue that a local celebrity should have been chosen to represent the brand's heritage. Despite the controversy, the government hopes Tamannaah's wide appeal will increase product visibility and strengthen Mysore Sandal Soap's position in the skincare market.



### Wings India 2026 to be held in Hyderabad from January 28 :-

Wings India 2026, India's premier civil aviation event, is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad from January 28 to 31. Organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, this event will serve as a global platform for networking, investments, and showcasing advancements in aviation technology. Participants will include industry leaders, government officials, and business stakeholders. The event will also feature exhibitions, conferences, and discussions on emerging trends, with a focus on

enhancing India's aviation sector. It aims to drive innovation and strengthen international collaborations.



#### Kami Rita Sherpa Scales Mount Everest for Unprecedented 31st Time :-

Veteran Nepalese Sherpa climber Kami Rita has achieved another historic feat by sumitting Mount Everest for the 31st time, solidifying his position as the most accomplished Everest climber in history. The 55-year-old mountaineer led a team, including members from the Indian Army Adventure Wing, to the 8,849-meter peak. His first ascent was in 1994, and he has since been instrumental in guiding climbers, managing expeditions, and contributing to Himalayan mountaineering safety.

## 11: National



#### India Approves Caste Census in Upcoming Population Survey :-

The Indian government has officially approved caste enumeration in the next national census, aiming to provide precise socio-economic data for policy-making. The decision reverses previous resistance, aligning with demands from various state governments advocating for better representation of marginalized communities. Experts believe this move will help formulate more effective welfare schemes. Political analysts see it as a significant development ahead of the 2026 delimitation exercise. However, critics warn of potential caste-based polarization in electoral politics, making this a widely debated issue in governance.

#### RBI Initiate to Use PRAVAAH portal from 1st May to all banks, financial companies :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued unambiguous instructions that, beginning May 1, 2025, all banks, financial institutions, and other regulated businesses must use the PRAVAAH site to submit applications for authorizations, licenses, and approvals. The Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorization (PRAVAAH) is a secure, web-based interface released by the RBI on May 28, 2024. The aim of PRAVAAH is to provide a single, safe, and streamlined platform where individuals and companies can apply for different permissions from the RBI.



### Maratha warrior Raghuji Bhosale's iconic sword returns to India :-

The historic sword of Maratha warrior Raghuji Bhosale I has been repatriated to India after being auctioned in London. Maharashtra's government secured the artifact for ₹47.15 lakh, recognizing its cultural significance. The sword, a rare example of Maratha-era craftsmanship, features a European-style blade with gold-inlaid inscriptions. The successful retrieval contributes to preserving India's historical legacy, reinforcing efforts to reclaim valuable artifacts from international auctions and museums.



### PM Modi Dedicates ₹8,800 Crore Vizhinjam International Seaport to the Nation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala, dedicating the monumental project, built at a cost of ₹8,800 crore, to the nation. This state-of-the-art port is set to revolutionize India's maritime infrastructure by significantly increasing transshipment capacity and reducing reliance on foreign ports for cargo handling. The seaport is a flagship project under initiatives like the Sagarmala Programme and PM Gati Shakti, aimed at boosting coastal development and streamlining connectivity across waterways, railways, and highways.



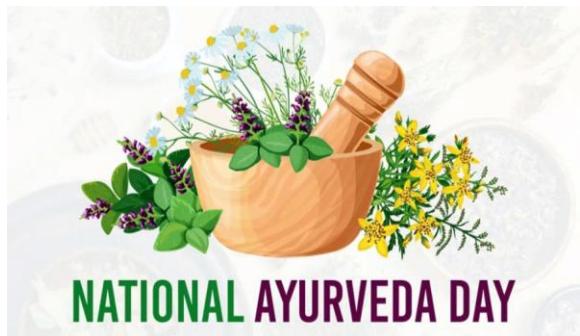
### Supreme Court Publishes Assets of 21 Judges, Aims for Greater Public Accountability :-

For the first time, the Supreme Court of India published financial assets of 21 sitting judges, including Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna. The move promotes judicial transparency, revealing properties, investments, and tax details. This initiative builds public trust, ensuring accountability in the judiciary. Analysts praise the disclosure, but concerns remain over privacy and security risks. The step aligns with global efforts in open governance, marking a historic shift in India's judicial ethics and institutional integrity.



### Govt Approves Greenfield Airports in Kota and Puri for Enhanced Connectivity :-

India's government approved Greenfield airports in Kota (Rajasthan) and Puri (Odisha) to boost regional connectivity. The Puri airport, named Shree Jagannath Airport, will cover 1,164 acres at ₹5,631 crore, enhancing religious tourism. The Kota airport supports the education and industry sectors, benefiting the Hadoti region. The approval was announced by Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu. These projects improve accessibility, foster economic development, and promote tourism, strengthening India's aviation infrastructure.



### Ayurveda Day to Be Celebrated on 23rd September Every Year :-

The Government of India has officially designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day, replacing the previous practice of celebrating it on Dhanteras. The fixed annual date aligns with the autumnal equinox, symbolizing nature's balance—a fundamental Ayurveda principle. The Ministry of Ayush aims to enhance global recognition of traditional Indian medicine, fostering research, innovation, and education in Ayurveda. Annual celebrations will include seminars, health camps, and awareness campaigns, promoting holistic health practices that integrate Ayurvedic principles into mainstream wellness approaches.



### SC directs Centre, States to set up POCSO courts on top-priority basis :-

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Centre and State governments to establish dedicated POCSO courts for handling sexual offenses against minors. The decision underscores the urgent need for faster case resolutions, given the increasing number of child abuse cases. Exclusive courts will ensure expedited trials, reduce legal delays, and provide specialized judicial attention to such cases. The directive also mandates strict compliance with timelines for charge-sheet filings and hearings, aiming to

deliver swift justice for victims and strengthen child protection laws in India.



### Amit Shah inaugurates revamped multi-agency network to fight terrorism :-

Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled the upgraded Multi Agency Centre (MAC), an intelligence-sharing system under the Intelligence Bureau. Costing ₹500 crore, MAC integrates AI-driven analytics and connects all Indian police districts, strengthening national security efforts. The revamped system aims to enhance coordination between agencies handling counterterrorism and intelligence operations. With advanced surveillance and faster information-sharing, MAC is expected to improve real-time tracking of security threats. This investment underscores India's commitment to modernizing its intelligence framework to combat evolving terrorism challenges effectively.



### President Murmu Invokes Article 143 Over Governors' Bill Assent Powers :-

President Droupadi Murmu sought the Supreme Court's advisory opinion under Article 143, addressing concerns about deadlines for governors and the President to assent to bills. This follows an April 8 Supreme Court ruling mandating three-month decision timelines for bills

reserved by governors. The issue arose after delays in state legislatures, prompting constitutional interpretation of executive powers. Murmu's request reflects governance challenges surrounding the legislative assent process, highlighting the balance between constitutional authority and efficiency in decision-making within India's federal structure.



### Supreme Court Grants Full Pension to All High Court Judges in Landmark Ruling :-

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that all retired High Court judges, including additional judges, are entitled to full pension and retirement benefits. The court emphasized that denying full pension violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality. The ruling ensures that former Chief Justices receive ₹15 lakh per annum, while other retired judges receive ₹13.5 lakh per annum. The decision also extends family pension benefits to the widows and families of deceased judges, reinforcing the principle of One Rank One Pension.



### Centre Launches Special Apprenticeship Scheme for Northeast Youth :-

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched a pilot apprenticeship scheme for 26,000 youth in the Northeast. The initiative provides an

additional ₹1,500 per month over the existing stipend under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). The scheme aims to enhance industry exposure, improve employment opportunities, and promote gender-inclusive skilling. It will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).



### DoT Launches Financial Fraud Risk Indicator to Tackle Cyber Crime :-

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), a sophisticated tool designed to combat cybercrime related to financial fraud. The system classifies mobile numbers based on their suspected involvement in fraudulent activities, thereby allowing banks, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies to take proactive measures. The initiative is part of the government's broader cybersecurity strategy aimed at curbing scams linked to OTP fraud, identity theft, and illegal transactions.



### NCW Launches Yashoda AI to Boost Women's AI and Cybersecurity Skills :-

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched Yashoda AI, a digital initiative aimed at empowering women with AI literacy and cybersecurity

training, especially in rural areas. The program focuses on bridging the gender gap in technology by offering skill development workshops, mentorship programs, and cybersecurity awareness campaigns. Through Yashoda AI, women will gain essential digital knowledge, helping them access new career opportunities and enhance their technological proficiency. The initiative aligns with India's broader goal of fostering inclusivity in the digital economy.



#### Heavy Rains Disrupt Travel Across India, Orange Alert Issued :-

Severe monsoon rains have disrupted travel across multiple states in India, leading to waterlogging, flight delays, and train cancellations. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for several regions, including Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, and Sindhudurg, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall. In Mumbai, suburban rail services have been affected, with waterlogging reported at key stations. Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious, as the monsoon season intensifies across the country.



#### New Agartala-Guwahati Train Approved by Railway Ministry :-

The Indian Railway Ministry has approved a new rail service connecting Agartala and Guwahati, aiming to enhance transportation and trade in the Northeast

region. This decision follows lobbying by former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who advocated for better connectivity between Assam and Tripura. The new train will provide faster access for passengers and business owners, strengthening regional commerce and tourism. Additionally, the government has announced a ₹5 crore development package for infrastructure improvements.



#### Historic : Joint National Mountaineering team scales Mount Everest :-

A Joint National Mountaineering Team comprising climbers from India's leading mountaineering institutes successfully summited Mount Everest (8,848.86m) recently. The climbers underwent intensive training, including a preparatory ascent of Mt. Lobuche (6,119m) for acclimatization. Flagged off by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, the mission showcased teamwork and resilience.



#### Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Portal Launched :-

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Portal, designed to improve local governance through data-driven insights. This portal enables Panchayats to track performance indicators aligned with Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring accountability and transparency. By promoting participatory governance, PAI 2.0 empowers communities with better decision-making tools, fostering equitable development and streamlining government interventions for measurable improvements in Panchayat administration.



## Department of Post

### India Post Launched DIGIPIN :-

India Post has introduced DIGIPIN, a groundbreaking digital addressing system designed to enhance location accuracy for postal and delivery services. Developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and NRSC, ISRO, DIGIPIN utilizes geo-coded, grid-based technology to standardize addresses across India. It allows individuals and businesses to generate unique digital codes for their locations, improving postal services, e-commerce logistics, and emergency response efficiency. Additionally, the initiative includes the Know Your PIN Code platform, refining postal accuracy by linking existing codes with precise geographic data.

## 12: Obituaries



### Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad passes away due to liver disease :-

Veteran Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad has died at age 49 following complications from liver disease. Known for his performances in films like Runway and Mambazhakkalam, Prasad's health worsened as financial difficulties delayed his liver transplant. His daughter had volunteered to donate a portion of her liver, but funds needed for surgery were insufficient. His passing highlights financial struggles many actors face despite their contributions to cinema. Tributes poured in from the film fraternity, remembering his versatile roles and dedication to the industry.

### Veteran Congress leader Girija Vyas passes away :-

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Girija Vyas has passed away at 79 due to burn injuries sustained during a religious ritual at her home. A prominent political figure, Vyas served as chairperson of the National Commission for Women and played a crucial role in gender rights advocacy. Her leadership influenced social welfare policies and women's empowerment initiatives. Her passing marks a significant loss to India's political landscape, with tributes pouring in from leaders across parties, acknowledging her contributions to governance and social change.



**India's Oldest Yoga Guru Baba Shivanand Passes Away at 128 :-**

India mourns the loss of Baba Shivanand, one of its oldest and most revered yoga gurus, who passed away at the age of 128. A life steeped in discipline and spiritual practice, Baba Shivanand was renowned for his ascetic lifestyle, rigorous daily routine, and unwavering commitment to yoga and meditation. As a recipient of the Padma Shri, his contributions have long been a source of inspiration for spiritual seekers across the nation. Leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid heartfelt tributes upon his demise.



**Former Argentina defender Luis Galván died :-**

Luis Galván, a key member of Argentina's 1978 FIFA World Cup-winning team, passed away at the age of 77. He had been hospitalized in Córdoba due to pneumonia. Galván played as a center-back in Argentina's historic 3-1 victory over the Netherlands in the 1978 World Cup final. He earned 34 caps for the national team and continued his club career with Talleres de Córdoba, setting a record with 503 appearances. His passing was mourned by the Argentine Football Association and former teammates.



**Telangana high court judge passes away :-**

Justice Maturi Girija Priyadarsini of the Telangana High Court passed away at 61 after a prolonged illness. Known for her dedication to swift justice, she prioritized cases concerning the underprivileged. She completed her LLB in 1995, followed by an LLM, and practised law at the Visakhapatnam district court until 2008. Having served as a district judge before her elevation to the High Court in 2022, she was widely respected for her judicial integrity. Her passing has led to expressions of condolences from the legal fraternity, acknowledging her contributions to India's judiciary.



**Madras High Court Judge Justice Sathya Narayana Prasad Passes Away :-**

Justice Sathya Narayana Prasad, a sitting judge of the Madras High Court, passed away at the age of 56 due to a cardiac arrest. He was enrolled as an advocate on Jan 29, 1997 in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. He was appointed as a judge in 2021. His tenure was marked by significant judicial contributions, including rulings on public interest litigations and governance matters. His sudden demise was mourned by the legal fraternity, with Tamil Nadu Governor and CM M.K. Stalin expressing condolences.



### Pak Army Shelling Kills 15 Civilians, Injures 43 in Poonch

Heavy Pakistani military shelling struck civilian areas in Poonch and Tangdhar, killing 15 civilians and injuring 43 others. The attack followed India's Operation Sindoora, which targeted terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Indian forces responded with counterstrikes, causing extensive damage to enemy positions. The cross-border violence led to heightened tensions, with diplomatic channels scrambling to defuse the crisis. This incident underscores ongoing security concerns in the region, with both nations engaging in strategic military maneuvers to defend territorial interests and national security.



### James Foley, director of 'Fifty Shades Darker' passes away at 71 :-

Hollywood director James Foley, known for films like 'Fifty Shades Darker', 'Fifty Shades Freed', and 'Glengarry Glen Ross', passed away at 71 after a long battle with brain cancer. Foley directed Madonna's iconic music videos, including 'Papa Don't Preach' and 'True Blue', and worked with stars like Al Pacino, Sean Penn, and Mark Wahlberg. His contributions to film and television, including 'House of Cards', left a lasting impact on Hollywood.



### National Award-winning makeup artist Vikram Gaikwad passes away :-

Celebrated makeup artist Vikram Gaikwad, known for his transformative work in Bollywood, passed away at 61. He was renowned for his exceptional ability to create historical and character-driven looks, contributing to films like "Sanju," "Uri: The Surgical Strike," and "83." He won multiple National Film Awards, including for "The Dirty Picture" and "Jaatishwar." His craft was admired across the Indian film industry, earning praise from actors and directors. Gaikwad's passing marks the loss of a creative genius whose work shaped visual storytelling in Indian cinema.



### Wrestling Legend Sabu Dies At 60 :-

Professional wrestling icon Sabu, known for his extreme style, passed away at age 60. His real name was Terry Brunk, and he revolutionized wrestling with high-risk moves, earning fame in ECW and WWE. Known for his brutal yet skillful performances, he inspired generations of wrestlers. Sabu's contribution to hardcore wrestling remains unparalleled, defining an era where wrestling was raw and unpredictable. Fans and wrestlers worldwide paid tributes, recalling his fearless in-ring persona.



### Rakesh Poojary, Kannada television personality and comedian, passes away at 34 :-

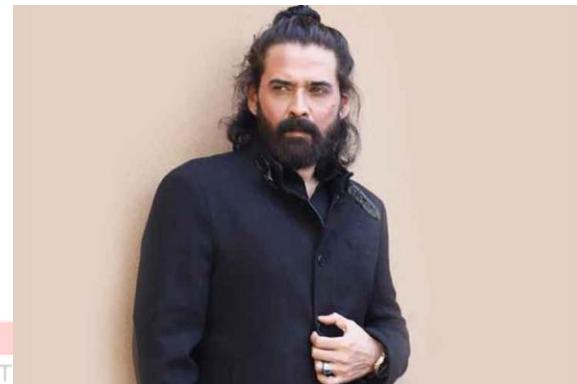
Popular Kannada comedian Rakesh Poojary, recognized for his performances in Comedy Khiladigalu Season 3, passed away at 34 due to sudden cardiac arrest. He collapsed at a mehendi ceremony in Udupi, Karnataka, and was declared dead upon arrival at a nearby hospital. Poojary had been a prominent figure in Kannada and Tulu entertainment, starring in films like Pailwan and Ammer Police. His unexpected passing has deeply saddened the Kannada film industry, with fellow artists expressing their condolences.



### Noted astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar passes away at 87

Renowned astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar passed away in Pune at the age of 87. A Padma

Vibhushan awardee, he was instrumental in cosmology research and co-developed the Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity, which challenged the Big Bang model. He founded the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and was a prolific science communicator. His contributions to popularizing science earned him the Kalinga Prize from UNESCO. Tributes poured in from leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, who called his passing a monumental loss to the scientific community.



### Actor Mukul Dev passes away at 54 :-

Veteran actor Mukul Dev has passed away at the age of 54, leaving the entertainment industry in mourning. Known for his diverse roles in Bollywood films, television shows, and web series, Mukul Dev made a significant mark with performances in Son of Sardaar and Jai Ho. His sudden demise has shocked colleagues and fans, prompting tributes from actors and filmmakers. As an artist recognized for his versatility, his contributions to the industry will be remembered fondly. His passing marks a significant loss for Indian cinema.

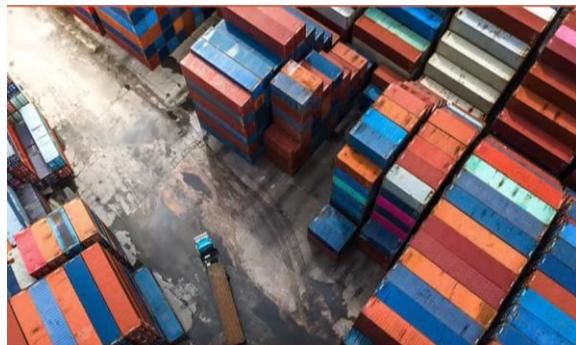
## 13: Ranks & Reports



### India's Coal Sector Records Growth in April 2025 :-

India's coal sector recorded a 3.63% production increase in April 2025, reaching 81.57 million tonnes. Growth in captive mining played a significant role, as production rose from 11.46 MT to 14.51 MT. Improved coal dispatches indicate rising domestic demand, bolstered by government policies promoting self-sufficiency. The sector remains crucial in meeting India's growing energy

needs, particularly as renewable energy expansion continues. The steady increase reflects efforts to reduce reliance on imports while optimizing mining efficiency.



#### India's Exports Hit Record \$824.9 Billion in FY 2024–25:

##### RBI Data :-

Data released by the Reserve Bank of India reveals that India's overall exports soared to an unprecedented \$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024–25, marking a significant 6.01% increase from the previous year's figures. The remarkable performance was driven largely by a robust surge in services exports, which climbed by 13.6% to reach record levels, alongside steady growth in non-petroleum merchandise exports. This record-breaking milestone is a testament to India's growing competitiveness in global markets and its strategic shift towards high-value sectors like IT, telecommunications, and financial services.



#### Amex and HSBC Top Credit Card Additions Among Foreign Banks in FY25 :-

In FY25, HSBC and American Express (Amex) led credit card additions among foreign banks in India. HSBC registered a net increase of 216,997 cards, recovering from previous declines, while Amex added 107,086 cards, strengthening its market presence. India's financial sector saw 8 million new credit card issuances,

reflecting growing consumer reliance on digital payments, credit access, and banking services. Analysts suggest this trend aligns with economic growth, increased digital adoption, and rising demand for financial flexibility.



#### India Secures 'BBB' Rating with Stable Outlook from Morningstar DBRS :-

India secured a 'BBB' credit rating with a stable outlook from Morningstar DBRS, highlighting its robust economic fundamentals. The rating reflects strong macroeconomic policies, structural reforms, and a resilient banking system. India's controlled inflation, infrastructure growth, and fiscal discipline contributed to the positive assessment. Global investors consider a 'BBB' rating stable for long-term investments, reinforcing confidence in India's financial markets. The outlook suggests continued growth, supported by domestic consumption, industrial expansion, and policy-driven development.



#### Maternal Mortality Ratio

##### India's Maternal Mortality Ratio Declines :-

India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) dropped to 93 per lakh live births, showing a substantial improvement from 130 (2014-16). Government health programs promoting institutional deliveries, antenatal care, and nutritional support played a crucial role in reducing maternal deaths. Initiatives like Janani Suraksha Yojana

and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana provided financial assistance and healthcare access to pregnant women. The decline indicates better medical infrastructure and awareness, helping India meet global maternal health targets and improve women's healthcare accessibility nationwide.



#### **Methane emissions remain high, 120 million tonnes released in 2024 : Global Methane Tracker 2025 :-**

The Global Methane Tracker 2025 reports that fossil fuel-related methane emissions reached 120 million tonnes in 2024, posing severe environmental risks. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, significantly contributing to global warming. Despite available technologies for emission reductions, implementation remains insufficient. The report stresses urgent action, particularly in major emitting nations, including India and the US. Natural gas production and livestock farming are key contributors.



#### **India's Total Fertility Rate Remains at 2.0: SRS 2021 Report :-**

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remained at 2.0 in 2021, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report, indicating population stabilization. The highest fertility rate was recorded in Bihar (3.0), while Delhi and West Bengal (1.4) reported the lowest. Experts attribute

the declining TFR to increased access to contraception, education, and delayed marriages. With the replacement level fertility being 2.1, India's steady rate suggests long-term population balance. Policymakers emphasize that sustainable population growth is crucial for economic planning.



#### **India's Outward FDI Soars to \$6.8 Billion in April 2025: RBI :-**

India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) surged to \$6.8 billion in April 2025, marking a significant increase from \$3.58 billion in April 2024. The rise is attributed to increased equity investments, loans, and guarantees by Indian corporations expanding globally. Sectors like manufacturing, infrastructure, and technology have driven this upward trend. The surge reflects India's growing presence in international markets and aligns with its economic ambitions of global expansion. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that Indian companies continue to explore international ventures aggressively.



#### **NSDL Reports Robust FPI Investment in May Amid Economic Stability :-**

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made significant investments in Indian equities markets last week, totaling Rs 4,452.3 crore between May 13 and May 16,

according to statistics from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). Some prominent foreign investors have injected billions of rupees into the stock market over a concentrated period, signaling renewed confidence in India's economic stability and growth prospects. This robust investment surge reflects a turnaround in sentiment following periods of outflows, as global uncertainties ease and domestic policy reforms take hold.



#### **Mizoram Becomes India's First Fully Literate State :-**

Mizoram has been officially declared India's first fully literate state under the ULLAS initiative, achieving a 98.2% literacy rate. The milestone was announced by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, recognizing the efforts of 1,692 adult learners who overcame barriers to pursue education. The literacy drive was supported by Samagra Shiksha and the New India Literacy Programme, with 292 volunteer teachers conducting classes in schools and community halls. Mizoram's achievement sets a precedent for other states to follow.



#### **IREDA secures 'Excellent' rating from DPE :-**

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has achieved an 'Excellent' rating from the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), reaffirming its status as a leading financial institution supporting renewable energy initiatives. The rating places IREDA among the top four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India based on performance metrics such as profitability, transparency, and sustainability efforts. IREDA has played a crucial role in financing clean energy projects, particularly in wind, solar, and bioenergy sectors.



#### **Morgan Stanley Raises India's Growth Forecast for FY26 and FY27 :-**

Morgan Stanley has revised India's GDP growth projections upward, estimating 6.2% for FY26 and 6.5% for FY27. The adjustment reflects optimism regarding India's economic resilience, driven by strong domestic consumption, robust manufacturing expansion, and increased foreign investment. The financial institution highlights easing US-China trade tensions and India's continued infrastructure development as contributing factors. Moreover, policy measures, including interest rate stability and government-backed industrial incentives, are expected to bolster business activity.

## 14: Schemes & Committees



### Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme :-

The government has introduced a green hydrogen certification mechanism for producers. According to Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi, the initiative is a step towards developing a framework for certifying green hydrogen generation while also ensuring openness, traceability, and market credibility. While the plan applies to enterprises who have bid for the government's incentives for the production of green hydrogen and its derivatives, it excludes exporters who have not used them. The 'materiality threshold' for an emission source will be 1% of the total emission threshold as the green hydrogen standards state.



### NITI Aayog lays out a roadmap to boost competitiveness of MSMEs :-

NITI Aayog has unveiled a comprehensive strategic blueprint aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India. The roadmap, prepared jointly with the Institute for Competitiveness, calls for systemic reforms in key areas such as financing, skill development, innovation,

and market access. In light of persistent credit gaps, the report recommends overhauling mechanisms like the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and easing state-level eligibility for loan subsidies.



### Kerala Launches 'Jyothi' Scheme to Educate Migrant Children :-

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the Jyothi initiative to ensure education for children of migrant workers. The scheme aims to integrate children aged 3-6 into anganwadis and enroll older children in public schools. The government has initiated a month-long outreach campaign to identify and enroll out-of-school migrant children. The program also includes health check-ups and cultural inclusion efforts to support migrant families. The initiative aligns with Kerala's broader efforts to modernize its migrant worker registry.



### Maharashtra Launches 'Adishakti Abhiyan' for Women's Empowerment :-

The Maharashtra government launched the Adishakti Abhiyan, a campaign focused on women's empowerment and welfare. The initiative addresses

issues such as malnutrition, maternal mortality, domestic violence, and child marriage. Committees will be formed at various administrative levels to ensure effective implementation. The government has allocated ₹10.50 crore for the campaign, which also includes the Adishakti Awards to recognize outstanding contributions to women's welfare.



#### Cabinet Approves ₹11,828 Crore Expansion Plan for Five IITs :-

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹11,828 crore expansion plan for five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)—Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Dharwad—to enhance education and research. The plan aims to increase student capacity by 6,576, improve infrastructure, and establish five new research parks to foster industry collaboration. This initiative aligns with India's ambition to strengthen technical education and innovation. The expansion includes state-of-the-art laboratories, faculty recruitment, and new curriculum advancements, contributing to India's global reputation in engineering and technology education.



#### Government Expands Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups to Boost Innovation and Capital Mobilization :-

The government expanded the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), increasing the loan guarantee cover

from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore to boost innovation and entrepreneurship. The Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF) for startups in 27 Champion Sectors was reduced from 2% to 1%, easing financial burdens. This initiative aims to enhance capital availability, encouraging high-potential startups to scale operations without financial constraints. The move strengthens India's startup ecosystem, fostering technological advancements and economic growth.



#### Delhi Police Launches 'Nayi Disha' to Reintegrate School Dropouts :-

Delhi Police introduced Nayi Disha, an initiative aimed at reintegrating school dropouts into education. Officers actively reach out to families, encouraging children to resume their studies. The program collaborates with schools, NGOs, and counselors to address socioeconomic challenges preventing education access. Recognizing education's role in reducing crime and improving livelihoods, Nayi Disha seeks to create a positive impact. The initiative employs mentorship and financial assistance where needed, ensuring students receive necessary support.



#### नई उड़ान, नई पहचान

#### Uttar Pradesh Expands ODOP Scheme with 12 New Products :-

The One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme in Uttar Pradesh now includes 12 additional products, increasing the total to 74. New items such as Baghpat's agricultural tools, Saharanpur's hosiery, Agra's footwear, and Ballia's sattu enhance regional economic growth. The ODOP initiative aims to promote local manufacturing, employment, and exports, providing financial support to small businesses and artisans. It strengthens India's Make in India movement, boosting rural industries while encouraging global trade.



#### **Maharashtra Launches Policy to Promote Artificial Sand Use :-**

Maharashtra introduced a policy mandating artificial sand (M-Sand) in construction projects to reduce dependence on river sand and minimize environmental degradation. Excessive sand mining has led to riverbed depletion and ecological imbalances. By promoting M-Sand, a manufactured alternative, the state aims to enhance sustainability in infrastructure projects. The policy encourages builders to adopt eco-friendly solutions, fostering innovation in construction materials. This shift aligns with India's broader efforts to integrate environmental consciousness into urban development, ensuring responsible resource management while maintaining construction efficiency.



#### **Samudrayaan: India's First Manned Deep Ocean Mission to Launch by 2026 :-**

India's first manned deep ocean mission, Samudrayaan, is set for 2026, deploying the Matsya 6000 submersible to explore 6,000-meter depths. Led by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), the mission aims to study deep-sea biodiversity, minerals, and ecosystem dynamics. It will propel India's marine research capabilities, supporting initiatives in sustainable ocean resource management. This ambitious project aligns with global deep-sea exploration trends, positioning India as a leader in underwater scientific advancements.



#### **70 Firms Apply Under ₹23,000 Crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme :-**

The Indian government's ₹23,000-crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) has received 70 applications within 15 days of launch, with 80% from MSMEs. The scheme aims to reduce import dependency and boost domestic manufacturing. Major players like Tata Electronics, Dixon Technologies, and Foxconn have shown interest. The initiative supports sub-assemblies like camera modules, lithium-ion cells, and flexible PCBs, addressing the ₹21 lakh crore demand-supply deficit projected by 2030.



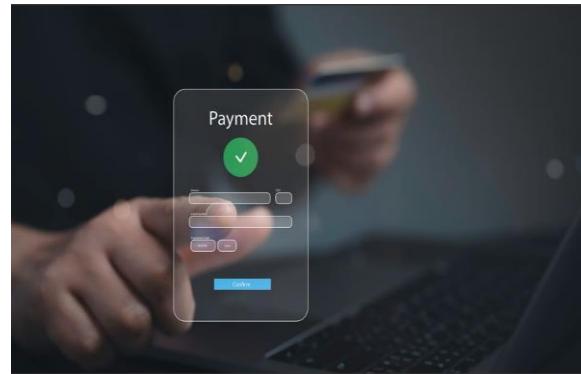
### Centre Launches e-Zero FIR to Fast-Track Cybercrime Cases :-

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced the e-Zero FIR system, allowing victims of cyber financial frauds above ₹10 lakh to file FIRs instantly online. The initiative, launched as a pilot project in Delhi, integrates the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and Delhi Police's e-FIR system. Victims can report fraud via helpline 1930, and FIRs will be automatically registered and forwarded to relevant police stations. The system aims to expedite investigations and improve cybercrime deterrence.



### India Launches Digital Revolution in Public Distribution System with Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata :-

In a landmark move towards modernizing welfare distribution, the Indian government has unveiled three innovative digital platforms—Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata—to overhaul the Public Distribution System (PDS). This digital revolution aims to ensure accountability, efficiency, and transparency in the supply chain that delivers subsidized food grains and essential commodities to over 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. This strategic initiative is expected to significantly enhance the credibility of government schemes and help bridge the gap between policy and practical implementation.



### RBI notifies six-member payments regulatory board :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a six-member Payments Regulatory Board, marking a significant shift in financial oversight. Headed by the RBI Governor, the board will now include three government nominees, strengthening the regulatory framework for India's payment systems. This decision aims to enhance consumer protection, streamline digital transactions, and improve financial stability. By overseeing technological developments in payments, the board will address cybersecurity risks, ensure fair practices, and support India's digital economy growth. Experts view this reform as a crucial step.



### Madhya Pradesh govt approves Rahveer scheme :-

The Rahveer Scheme, approved by the Madhya Pradesh government, provides ₹25,000 incentives to those assisting road accident victims in reaching hospitals. The scheme aims to reduce fatalities by ensuring timely medical intervention. Launched under CM Dr. Mohan Yadav's leadership, it encourages public participation in emergency response, aligning with the Good Samaritan Law that protects helpers from legal repercussions. Inspired by PM Narendra Modi's road safety initiatives, the policy aims to boost survival rates, strengthening

healthcare accessibility while fostering a sense of responsibility among citizens.



#### **Ayushman Vay Vandana Card: Rs.5 Lakh Free Health Cover for Senior Citizens :-**

Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card now offers ₹5 lakh insurance coverage for senior citizens aged 70 and above, covering over 2,000 medical procedures. With no waiting period, beneficiaries can avail treatment at 30,000+ empanelled hospitals, including private and public institutions. This initiative aims to enhance elderly healthcare accessibility, reducing financial burdens on families. It ensures comprehensive medical support, reinforcing the

government's commitment to senior citizen welfare and strengthening India's universal healthcare system.



#### **PM Modi laid multiple development projects worth over Rs 5,500 cr in Gujarat :-**

During his two-day visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 5,536 crore in Gandhinagar. These projects span urban development, infrastructure, water resource management, healthcare, and revenue services. A major highlight was the groundbreaking of Phase 3 of the Sabarmati Riverfront project in Ahmedabad, worth Rs 1,000 crore. Modi also inaugurated 22,000 homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and launched Gujarat's Clean Air Programme. His visit marked 20 years of Gujarat's Urban Growth Story.

## **15: Science & Technology**



#### **Amazon launches first operational satellites for Project Kuiper :-**

Amazon officially entered the competitive satellite broadband market when it launched the first 27 satellites in its Project Kuiper constellation. The satellites were launched on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, following an earlier delay due to adverse weather conditions. This launch marks the beginning of Amazon's long-awaited \$10 billion venture to build a global high-speed internet network, with a focus on underserved and remote locations around the world. Project Kuiper, first announced in 2019, plans to eventually deploy a constellation of 3,236 satellites into low-Earth orbit (LEO).



### Madhya Pradesh Introduced India's First AI-Powered Real-Time Forest Alert System :-

Madhya Pradesh has launched India's first AI-driven real-time forest alert system to combat illegal land encroachments and deforestation. The system integrates satellite imagery, AI algorithms, and mobile-based field reporting to detect changes in forest cover. Alerts are sent to forest officials for immediate action, enhancing conservation efforts. The initiative is being piloted in five forest divisions and is expected to serve as a model for other states. Officials anticipate its adoption in other states to strengthen ecological protection and monitor illegal activities affecting biodiversity.



### India Helps Complete Key Magnet System for ITER :-

A significant milestone has been reached in the world's largest international fusion project, ITER, with the completion of its main magnet system—an essential component that powers the Tokamak reactor. India played a pivotal role in this achievement by delivering critical infrastructure such as the cryostat, cryolines for cooling the superconducting magnets, and other sophisticated support systems. This magnet system is vital for generating and controlling the ultra-hot plasma

needed to initiate nuclear fusion, which, unlike conventional fission, promises a safe and carbon-free energy source.



### Neuralink's speech restoration device gets Breakthrough Designation from FDA :-

Elon Musk's Neuralink has received FDA Breakthrough Device Designation for its speech restoration implant, designed for patients with severe speech impairments. The device deciphers neural signals and translates them into speech, assisting individuals with conditions like ALS, strokes, and spinal cord injuries. The FDA designation accelerates regulatory approval, moving the technology closer to real-world applications. Neuralink aims to revolutionize brain-computer interfaces, enabling direct thought-to-speech translation for disabled individuals, significantly improving their communication abilities through advanced neurotechnology.



### Election Commission to launch single-point digital platform soon :-

India's Election Commission (ECI) is set to introduce ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating 40 electoral apps. Designed to simplify voter services, it will provide registration, polling station details, and election

statistics. ECINET benefits 100 crore voters, along with polling officials and political parties. Cybersecurity measures are being tested ahead of its rollout. The platform marks a shift toward digitized election management, enhancing accessibility and efficiency for India's democratic processes.



#### **Arunachal Pradesh Drills First Geothermal Production Well :-**

Arunachal Pradesh has successfully drilled its first geothermal production well in Dirang, West Kameng district, marking a breakthrough in India's sustainable energy development. Led by the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), the project aims to use geothermal energy for space heating, food drying, and storage solutions, reducing reliance on conventional power sources. International collaborations support this initiative, ensuring advanced technology implementation.



#### **Sarvam AI Launches Bulbul-v2 with Realistic Indian Accents :-**

Sarvam AI unveiled Bulbul-v2, an advanced text-to-speech model featuring realistic Indian accents in 11 languages. The AI startup focuses on natural-sounding voices, moving beyond robotic tones. Designed for

accessibility, Bulbul-v2 aids businesses, media, and education by offering high-quality, customizable voice synthesis. The model emphasizes low latency and cost-effectiveness, promoting AI adoption in multilingual settings. With demand for localized AI increasing, the launch marks a step toward better linguistic representation in digital content.



#### **Scientists Create First Pangenome of Asian Rice :-**

A team of researchers has developed the first pangenome of Asian rice, mapping 144 wild and cultivated varieties. This breakthrough helps identify genetic traits that enhance rice yield, disease resistance, and climate adaptation. The study confirms cultivated Asian rice originates from Or-IIIa, a wild ancestor. The genome project supports agricultural advancements, offering insights into breeding programs. Scientists aim to improve rice sustainability while ensuring food security amid climate challenges. This research strengthens the foundation for future genetic modifications that enhance crop resilience and productivity.



#### **FaceAge: AI Tool Uses Selfies to Predict Biological Age and Cancer Outcomes :-**

Researchers have developed FaceAge, an AI tool that analyzes selfies to predict biological age and potential cancer survival rates. Tested on 6,196 patients, FaceAge evaluates facial features to assess aging indicators, offering more accurate predictions than conventional medical assessments. The tool could revolutionize personalized healthcare, helping doctors make more informed treatment decisions. However, concerns remain regarding privacy, data security, and ethical implications, as such AI models could be exploited by insurance companies to adjust premiums.



#### C-DOT and Synergy Quantum Partner to Develop Quantum Key Distribution for Drones :-

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has collaborated with Synergy Quantum India to develop Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology for secure drone communications. The initiative aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, enhancing quantum encryption in unmanned aerial systems. QKD ensures tamper-proof data transmission by leveraging quantum physics principles. This partnership strengthens India's cybersecurity framework, enabling secure military operations, surveillance, and financial transactions.



#### Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates First 3nm Semiconductor Design Hubs in Noida and Bengaluru :-

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first 3nm semiconductor design hubs, established by Renesas Electronics in Noida and Bengaluru. These hubs mark a milestone in India's semiconductor industry, advancing domestic technology development. The 3nm chips offer higher processing efficiency and lower power consumption, boosting AI, automotive, and communication sectors. This initiative strengthens India's global semiconductor competitiveness, aligning with efforts to reduce import dependency and position itself as a hub for microchip innovation. Industry experts anticipate rapid growth in electronics manufacturing following this development.



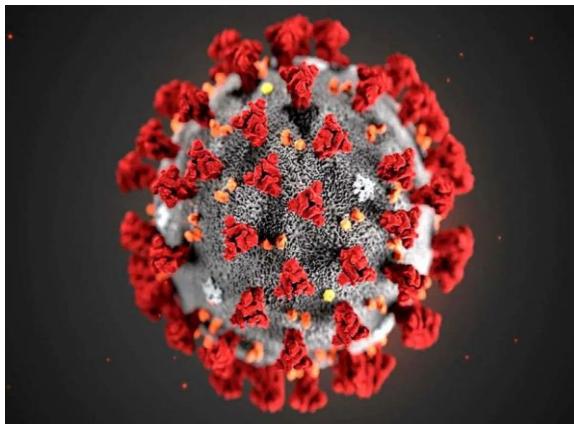
#### US Doctors Use CRISPR to Cure Rare Liver Disorder in 9-Month-Old Baby :-

In a landmark breakthrough in precision medicine, doctors in the United States have successfully employed CRISPR gene-editing technology to treat a nine-month-old baby diagnosed with a rare and dangerous liver disorder known as CPS1 deficiency. This metabolic disorder prevents the liver from converting harmful ammonia—produced during protein breakdown—into urea for safe excretion, often leading to life-threatening health issues in infancy. The innovative, tailor-made therapy, developed by researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Penn Medicine, involved designing a custom "base editing" treatment that targets the exact genetic mutation causing the disorder.



#### ISRO's EOS-09 mission unsuccessful :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) ambitious EOS-09 mission, which aimed to deploy a state-of-the-art Earth observation satellite, ended in setback due to technical anomalies during the crucial third stage of the PSLV-C61 launch vehicle. Intended to provide high-resolution radar imagery for applications in agriculture, disaster management, and border surveillance, the EOS-09 mission was thwarted by an unexpected pressure issue within the solid rocket motor. Although the initial stages performed flawlessly, the malfunction in the third stage prevented the satellite from achieving its designated orbit.



#### JN.1 variant : Covid cases rising in Singapore, India :-

The JN.1 variant, a sub-lineage of Omicron BA.2.86, has triggered a fresh surge in Covid-19 cases across Singapore and India. Singapore reported over 14,000 cases in early May, with hospitals seeing an uptick in admissions. In India, 257 active cases have been detected, mainly in Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. Experts suggest that waning immunity and fewer booster doses are factors behind the increase. While the

JN.1 variant is highly transmissible, preliminary studies indicate it is not causing severe illness, though health officials recommend vigilance.



#### Next-Gen QR Codes to Replace Traditional Barcodes by 2027: GS1:-

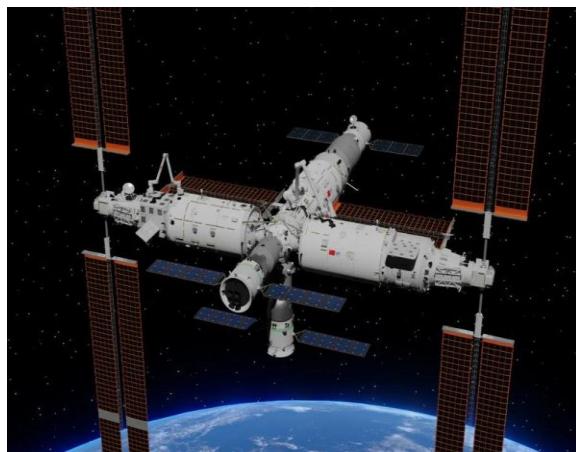
Global standards organization GS1 has announced that traditional 1D barcodes will be replaced by next-generation QR codes by 2027, revolutionizing product labeling. These new QR codes will offer enhanced traceability, supply chain transparency, and consumer trust, allowing customers to access detailed product information, including expiry dates, sourcing data, recall notices, and nutritional facts via a smartphone scan. The transition is expected to streamline inventory management, improve counterfeit detection, and support regulatory compliance.



#### India Launches World's Highest Resolution Weather Forecast System 'BFS' :-

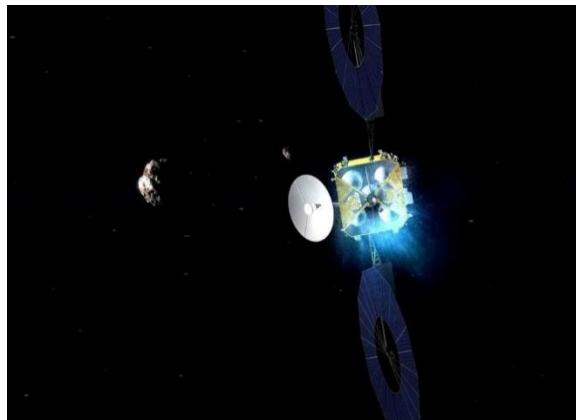
India has introduced the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS), a next-generation weather prediction model offering high-resolution forecasts with a grid accuracy of

6 kilometers. Developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), BFS utilizes the advanced supercomputer Arka, which enhances processing speeds and precision. The system aims to improve agriculture planning, disaster response, and climate research, providing localized weather data critical for India's diverse climate zones.



#### Chinese scientists discover mysterious bacteria on Tiangong space station :-

Chinese scientists have discovered a new bacterial species called *Niallia tiangongensis* on the Tiangong Space Station. The microbe was found in surface samples collected during the Shenzhou 15 mission, which returned to Earth in June 2023. The bacterium has unique survival traits, including the ability to decompose gelatin, which could support life in nutrient-poor environments. While it is unclear whether *Niallia tiangongensis* poses a risk to astronauts, studying such microbes is crucial for space sanitation and mission security.



#### China's Tianwen-2 probe :-

China is set to launch its Tianwen-2 mission on May 29, 2025, targeting the near-Earth asteroid 469219 Kam'oalewa. This mission aims to survey and sample the asteroid, marking China's first attempt at asteroid exploration. Scientists believe Kam'oalewa may contain lunar material, possibly ejected from the Moon due to a collision. The probe will use touch-and-go and anchor-and-attach techniques to collect samples, which will be returned to Earth in 2027. After completing this phase, Tianwen-2 will travel to the asteroid belt to study comet 311P/PANSTARRS.



#### DRDO Launches Advanced Quantum Technology Research Centre in Delhi :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has inaugurated the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) in Delhi, focusing on advancements in quantum computing, quantum cryptography, and ultra-secure communication. The facility houses cutting-edge experimental setups, including quantum key distribution systems, atomic magnetometers, and secure quantum networks crucial for national security applications. India's quantum research has gained momentum due to strategic defense needs and competition with global powers investing in quantum capabilities.

## 16: Sports



### MMA Debuts and Cricket Retained for Asian Games 2026 :-

The decision to feature Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) for its debut and retain cricket for the 2026 Asian Games signals an evolving sporting agenda in Asia. Cricket, which has featured in previous editions and has garnered immense fanfare across the continent, continues to attract top talent and competitive fervor, especially as it gains recognition on a global scale with its return to the Olympic fold. Meanwhile, the introduction of MMA—a sport growing rapidly in popularity and competitive spirit—underscores the organizers' commitment to embracing new disciplines.



### Rohit Sharma Announces Retirement from Test Cricket

Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket, stating that he will continue playing ODIs. The 38-year-old batsman, who led India to the World Test Championship final, made the announcement via Instagram. His Test career spanned 67 matches, with 4,301 runs, 12 centuries, and 18 fifties.

The veteran opener had earlier retired from T20Is after leading India to a title win in the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup, ending the nation's 13-year drought in ICC tournaments.



### IPL suspended for one week due to India-Pakistan conflict :-

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the temporary suspension of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for one week due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The decision follows the abandonment of the Punjab Kings vs. Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala due to security concerns. The IPL Governing Council is expected to announce a revised schedule after assessing the situation. Players and officials were evacuated from Dharamsala for safety reasons.



### Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket :-

Virat Kohli, India's legendary batter, has announced his retirement from Test cricket after 123 matches. Over 14 years, Kohli amassed 9,230 runs, including 30 centuries. His tenure as India's Test captain was highly successful,

securing series victories in Australia and England. Known for his aggressive leadership and fitness discipline, Kohli's departure marks the end of an era. Fans and cricket icons paid emotional tributes, celebrating his achievements. While stepping away from Test cricket, Kohli will continue to play shorter formats, ensuring his presence in international matches.



#### India secures 7 medals at Archery World Cup stage 2 :-

India claimed 7 medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 held in Shanghai, China. Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe won bronze medals in the women's and men's recurve individual events, while the men's compound team secured gold. Madhura Dhamangaonkar led India's compound archery efforts with another gold medal. Indian archers showed exceptional skill against South Korea and the USA, reinforcing India's status as a global contender. With Stage 3 in Antalya approaching, India's athletes are preparing to maintain momentum.



#### IPL 2025 Revised Schedule Announced :-

The IPL 2025 season, suspended due to India-Pakistan tensions, is set to resume on May 17 with a revised schedule of 17 matches. Matches will be held in Bengaluru, Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and

Mumbai, with the final on June 3. Due to international commitments, some foreign players may miss matches, particularly those involved in the World Test Championship final. The revised schedule ensures completion before the T20 World Cup 2025, with franchises adjusting strategies accordingly.



#### FIFA Lifts Suspension on Congo Republic's Football Federation :-

FIFA has officially lifted its three-month suspension on the Republic of Congo's football federation (FECOFOOT), allowing the nation to rejoin international competitions. The suspension was initially imposed due to third-party interference from the country's sports ministry, violating FIFA's rule that mandates football federations remain independent of government control. With the ban lifted, Congo can now participate in key events such as the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers and 2026 FIFA World Cup.



#### Srihari LR Becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster :-

Srihari LR, a talented 19-year-old chess player from Tamil Nadu, has achieved the prestigious Grandmaster (GM) title, becoming India's 86th GM. He secured his final GM norm at the Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship, completing a journey that began with his first GM norm

at the Qatar Masters (2023) and his second at the Chennai GM Open (2024). Srihari's achievement underscores India's growing dominance in chess, particularly in Tamil Nadu, which has produced several top players, including Vishwanathan Anand and Praggnanandhaa.



#### **Pankaj Advani Clinches 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title in Mumbai :-**

Legendary cueist Pankaj Advani continues his dominance in the billiards world, securing the 2025 CCI Billiards Classic title in Mumbai by defeating Dhruv Sitwala with a commanding 5-2 win in the final. Known for his exceptional career spanning multiple formats, Advani has amassed 28 World Championships across billiards, snooker, and pool. His latest victory marks his third consecutive CCI Billiards Classic title, reinforcing his status as India's greatest cue sports player. Advani's consistency and mastery of billiards make him a revered figure in the sport.



#### **Neeraj Chopra Crosses 90m Mark, Finishes Second in Doha Diamond League 2025 :-**

Neeraj Chopra achieved a milestone by throwing 90.23 meters, surpassing the 90m barrier in javelin at the Doha Diamond League. Despite this feat, he finished second

behind Germany's Julian Weber, who won with 91.06m. Chopra's performance signals his growing dominance in global athletics, showcasing consistency ahead of major events like the Paris Olympics 2024. His achievement strengthens India's presence in international track and field, inspiring young athletes. The record-breaking throw reaffirms his world-class status, as he continues pushing boundaries in elite sports competitions.



#### **Praggnanandhaa Clinches First Grand Chess Tour Title at Superbet Classic :-**

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won his first Grand Chess Tour title at the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest. He secured victory in a three-way blitz playoff against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, earning a \$77,667 prize. His triumph marks a breakthrough in elite chess, solidifying his status among top global players. Praggnanandhaa's calculated moves and aggressive playstyle showcased his strategic brilliance, earning widespread recognition. His success in the tournament reinforces India's rising chess dominance, with young talents continuing to excel internationally.



#### **India Clinches SAFF U-19 Title :-**

Demonstrating impressive skill and unwavering determination, the Indian U-19 football team,

affectionately known as the Blue Colts, has clinched the SAFF U-19 Championship title in a dramatic final against Bangladesh. After delivering a dominant performance throughout the tournament with emphatic wins in earlier matches, India held Bangladesh to a 1-1 draw in regulation time. The championship was ultimately decided by a nerve-wracking penalty shootout, where India's composure under pressure—highlighted by the crucial conversion of the final kick by team captain Singamayum Shami—secured a 4-3 victory.



#### **Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Italian Open Title :-**

In a dazzling display of athletic prowess, tennis phenom Carlos Alcaraz secured his first Italian Open title by defeating Italy's Jannik Sinner in a straight-sets final. The Spaniard's victory, characterized by a razor-sharp tie-break in the opening set followed by a dominant, one-sided second set, not only ended Sinner's remarkable 26-match winning streak but also marked a major milestone in his rapidly ascending career. Winning on the renowned clay courts of Rome, Alcaraz demonstrated strategic brilliance and physical endurance, solidifying his status as a serious contender ahead of upcoming Grand Slam events.



#### **Football : Former Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina retires at 42 :-**

Spanish goalkeeper Pepe Reina has officially retired at 42, closing a remarkable 26-year career in professional football. Known for his leadership and shot-stopping skills, Reina played for Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Napoli, AC Milan, Aston Villa, and Villarreal, earning eight major trophies, including the FA Cup and League Cup. A key part of Spain's 2010 World Cup-winning squad, he also helped secure two European Championships. His career saw over 800 matches, making him one of the most consistent goalkeepers of his era.



#### **Football : Tottenham Hotspur Beat Manchester United to Clinch Europa League Title :-**

Tottenham Hotspur secured their first European trophy since 1984 by defeating Manchester United 1-0 in the UEFA Europa League final. The decisive moment came when Brennan Johnson scored in the first half, capitalizing on United's defensive lapse. Despite an aggressive push from Manchester United, Spurs maintained solid defensive discipline, ensuring their lead remained intact. Manager Ange Postecoglou's tactical approach emphasized controlled possession, restricting United's attacking play.



#### **Joe Root becomes fastest player to score 13000 Test runs :-**

England's esteemed Test batsman Joe Root has etched his name into cricketing history by becoming the fastest player to reach 13,000 runs in Test cricket—a record accomplished in just 153 matches. While surpassing batting legends like Jacques Kallis, Rahul Dravid, Ricky Ponting, and Sachin Tendulkar in terms of matches played, Root's achievement highlights his remarkable consistency and resilience at the highest levels of the game. This milestone not only reaffirms his status as one of the modern greats of Test cricket but also demonstrates his ability to perform under pressure against some of the toughest bowling attacks in the world.



#### Shooter Kanak wins India's first gold medal at Junior World Cup in Germany :-

In a breakthrough achievement for Indian shooting talent, 17-year-old Kanak has clinched the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany. With a magnificent score of 239.0 in a 24-shot final, she edged out experienced opponents—including a two-time Olympian from Moldova—to win by a margin of 1.7 points. This victory not only marks India's first gold medal at the prestigious tournament but also signals the emergence of a promising young shooter on the global stage.



#### Napoli clinch Serie A 2024-25 title :-

Napoli secured the 2024-25 Serie A championship with a decisive 2-0 victory over Cagliari, narrowly edging out Inter Milan by one point. The triumph marks Napoli's second league title in three years, highlighting their consistency and strong performance. Goals by Scott McTominay and Romelu Lukaku sealed the win, showcasing Napoli's offensive strength. Fans celebrated the historic achievement across Italy, as the club reinforced its status among Europe's football elite. The victory will boost Napoli's preparations for upcoming domestic and international tournaments.



#### Kush Maini Creates History with First Indian Win in Formula 2 :-

Kush Maini became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race, securing victory at the Monaco Grand Prix Sprint Race in May 2025. Driving for DAMS Lucas Oil, Maini converted pole position into a lights-to-flag win, finishing 3.705 seconds ahead of his closest competitor. His triumph marks a significant milestone for Indian motorsport, inspiring young racers across the country. Maini, a BWT Alpine F1 reserve driver, has been backed by JK Racing and TVS Racing, which have supported his journey from karting to international racing.



### Arsenal Triumphs Over Barcelona to Win Women's Champions League 2025 :-

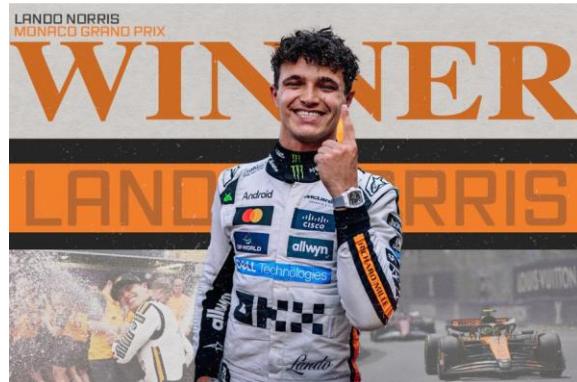
Arsenal stunned defending champions Barcelona with a 1-0 victory in the Women's Champions League final in Lisbon. Stina Blackstenius scored the winning goal in the 74th minute, assisted by Beth Mead. Arsenal's title came 18 years after it became the first, and still the only, English club to win the top club title in women's football. The Gunners eliminated Lyon and Barcelona, the winners of the last nine combined Champions League editions, showcasing their resurgence under head coach Renee Slegers.



### India to Host Khelo India Northeast Games Annually :-

The Indian government has announced that the Khelo India Northeast Games will be held annually, rotating among the eight northeastern states. This initiative aims to identify and nurture grassroots sports talent while promoting traditional games. The Northeast has seen

significant investment in sports infrastructure, with Rs 439 crore allocated for 64 projects under the Khelo India scheme. The region now hosts 152 Khelo India Centres, training over 8,000 athletes, and three National Centres of Excellence.



### Formula 1: Lando Norris wins 2025 Monaco GP :-

British driver Lando Norris secured victory at the prestigious 2025 Monaco Grand Prix, marking his second win of the Formula 1 season. Starting from pole position, Norris maintained control of the race, successfully holding off Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who finished second, followed by McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in third. Max Verstappen, the reigning world champion, struggled due to a strategic pit stop under Monaco's new two-stop rule, finishing fourth. Norris's victory is crucial in the 2025 championship standings, narrowing Piastri's lead to just three points, making the title race more intense.

## 17: State



### Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam Issued India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond :-

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) has made a major feat by releasing India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, earning ₹150 crore to construct a Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP). Utilizing cutting-edge membrane filtering technologies such as reverse osmosis (RO), ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and microfiltration, the TSTP makes sure treated water satisfies the strictest requirements for repurposing in industrial operations. With a capacity of 40 MLD, the plant is connected to a 95

km pipeline network, supplying treated water to over 1,400 industrial units across Ghaziabad.



#### **IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal Assumes Charge as the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar :-**

The Election Commission has named IAS official Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal, a 2007-batch officer of the Bihar cadre, as the new Chief Electoral official (CEO) of Bihar in anticipation of the October–November 2025 Bihar Assembly elections. Graduated in Mechanical Engineering, IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal offers a wealth of administrative experience to his current position. Throughout his career, he has held several key positions within the Bihar government, demonstrating his versatility and commitment to public service.



#### **Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor with Madhya Pradesh :-**

Rajasthan is slated to join India's first cheetah reintroduction project, which is presently operating in Madhya Pradesh. A wildlife corridor covering 17,000 square kilometers will be built across both states, allowing cheetahs to wander freely in a safe and connected environment. The corridor will connect Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in

Madhya Pradesh to the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. As part of the plan, seven districts in Rajasthan — Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, and Chittorgarh — will be integrated into the project.



#### **Maharashtra and Gujarat Celebrate 65th Foundation Day :-**

Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their 65th foundation day, marking their formation in 1960 after the linguistic reorganization of Bombay State. Events across both states featured cultural performances and tributes to the contributions of local leaders. The anniversary highlights the states' economic advancements, including Gujarat's industrial growth and Maharashtra's media dominance. Political leaders emphasized continued collaboration for national development. Citizens took pride in their rich heritage, with celebrations underscoring their historical journey from independence to becoming economic powerhouses in India.



#### **May 5 to be officially declared as Traders' Day in Tamil Nadu: CM Stalin :-**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that May 5 will be officially recognized as Traders' Day. The

declaration fulfills a long-standing demand from the Tamil Nadu Traders' Associations. Stalin also announced welfare measures, including increased financial assistance for traders and extended free membership in the Traders' Welfare Board. Additionally, businesses under 500 square feet will receive licenses based on self-certification, and a new website will be created for traders.



#### **Maharashtra Government Announces Biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar for 300th Birth Anniversary :-**

The Maharashtra government announced a biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar to commemorate her 300th birth anniversary. The film will be produced in Marathi and other regional languages and released on Doordarshan and OTT platforms. Ahilyabai Holkar, known for her progressive governance and architectural contributions, is celebrated as one of India's most visionary female rulers. The project will be overseen by the Maharashtra Film, Theatre, and Cultural Development Corporation.



#### **Rajnath Singh launches BrahMos facility in Lucknow :-**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow, enhancing India's missile production capabilities. The

facility, developed under the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, aims to manufacture 80–100 BrahMos missiles annually, increasing India's defence preparedness. The BrahMos missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, is one of the fastest supersonic cruise missiles, used by India's Army, Navy, and Air Force. The project strengthens India's defence infrastructure and global defence collaborations.



#### **Andhra Govt Waives Property Tax for Defence Homes in Villages :-**

The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a property tax exemption for homes owned by active and retired defence personnel within gram panchayat limits. Beneficiaries include personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, CRPF, and paramilitary forces, including properties jointly owned with spouses. The exemption acknowledges their contributions to national security, offering financial relief. The move strengthens civil-military relations and encourages military families to settle in rural regions.



#### **Union Minister Lays Foundation Stone for ₹42.4 Crore Integrated Aquapark in Tripura Under PMMSY :-**

In a decisive step toward elevating India's aquaculture infrastructure, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh laid the

foundation stone for an Integrated Aquapark in Kailashahar, Tripura, with an investment of ₹42.4 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). This pioneering project is part of a broader initiative to transform Tripura into a "fish surplus state" by integrating state-of-the-art hatcheries, feed mills, cold storage, processing facilities, training centers, and marketing hubs under a single roof.



#### Om Birla Launches Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra in Kota :-

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) in Kota, Rajasthan, aimed at supporting persons with disabilities. The center, managed by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), provides assistive devices like prosthetics, orthotics, and Braille tools to enhance mobility and independence. The initiative aligns with the government's push for inclusive development, ensuring better accessibility for differently-abled individuals. Over 100 such centers are expected to be established across India by June 2025, significantly improving disability support services.



#### Tamil Nadu's endangered species fund hits a snag :-

The Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund, initially overseen by the State Forest Development

Agency (SFDA), faced administrative hurdles, delaying funds for critical research. To resolve the issue, the state government has handed over management to the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur, ensuring better oversight. The fund supports conservation of rare and threatened species, including Salim Ali's fruit bat, Malabar Civet, and Nilgiris wart frog. Wildlife experts believe the restructuring will improve fund allocation and biodiversity preservation efforts.



#### Tripura Announces Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan to Empower Farmers :-

The Tripura government has launched the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, a nationwide agricultural campaign focused on modernizing farming techniques. Running from May 29 to June 12, it aims to educate farmers about government schemes, scientific methods, and climate-resilient practices to boost productivity. Experts from ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and local officials will provide training on using advanced seeds, fertilizers, and technology-driven farming methods. The initiative aligns with India's Vision 2047, ensuring long-term sustainability in agriculture while reducing costs and increasing yields.



#### Euthalia Malaccana, A Rare Butterfly Recorded In Arunachal Pradesh :-

Researchers have confirmed the presence of *Euthalia malaccana*, a rare butterfly species, in Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district. Previously documented only in Southeast Asia, this discovery expands its known geographical range, contributing significantly to biodiversity studies. The butterfly belongs to the Nymphalidae family and is known for its striking wing patterns and elusive nature. Its identification was part of a broader biodiversity survey aimed at mapping lesser-known species in India's Northeastern forests. Experts emphasize the ecological importance of such findings, as they indicate healthy forest ecosystems capable of supporting unique wildlife.



#### Gujarat's Lion Population Grows by 32% Since 2020 :-

The Asiatic lion population in Gujarat has increased by 32% since 2020, reaching 891 individuals across 11 districts, according to a report from the Gujarat Forest Department. This remarkable growth reflects the success of conservation efforts, including anti-poaching measures, habitat expansion, and improved veterinary care. The lions, primarily found in Gir National Park and surrounding landscapes, have also been observed in new regions, suggesting effective habitat connectivity. Wildlife experts credit community involvement and government initiatives for this expansion.



#### Siang Upper Multipurpose Project Sparks Controversy in Arunachal Pradesh :-

The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, India's largest proposed hydroelectric dam, has triggered protests in Arunachal Pradesh. Indigenous groups, particularly the Adi tribe, fear displacement and environmental destruction. The ₹50,000 crore project, aimed at curbing China's water control on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, has become a geopolitical issue. While the government promises development funds, locals demand alternative solutions that preserve their land and biodiversity.



#### UP Government Launches India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train :-

The Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled India's first Vistadome jungle safari train, providing breathtaking views of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Featuring rotating seats, large glass windows, and a transparent rooftop, the train offers an immersive wildlife experience for tourists. The initiative aims to boost eco-tourism, attract global visitors, and support forest conservation efforts. With improved infrastructure, the safari train is expected to generate employment and strengthen local economies.



#### Rajasthan BJP MLA Disqualified After Conviction for Threatening Official :-

Rajasthan BJP MLA Kanwarlal Meena has been disqualified from the legislative assembly after being convicted for threatening a government official in 2005. The Rajasthan High Court upheld a three-year sentence, triggering automatic disqualification under Article 191 (1) (e) of the Indian Constitution. His removal reduces the assembly strength to 199, necessitating a by-election for his seat in Anta constituency. The ruling reinforces judicial accountability for lawmakers, setting a precedent for ethical governance and political responsibility.



#### Tamil Nadu Launched Space Industrial Policy :-

Tamil Nadu has introduced its Space Industrial Policy, aiming to attract Rs 10,000 crore in investments over five years and create 10,000 jobs. The policy focuses on satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space-grade components. Tamil Nadu is home to ISRO's

Propulsion Complex and the upcoming Kulasekharapattinam spaceport, enhancing India's satellite launch capabilities. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has partnered with IN-SPACe to support startups and established companies in the space sector.



#### Gujarat Achieves 100% Rail Electrification :-

Gujarat has become the 24th state/UT in India to achieve 100% railway electrification. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this milestone during the inauguration of the Dahod Electric Locomotive Factory, which will produce India's first 9000 HP electric freight locomotives. The electrification of Gujarat's railway network aligns with India's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions in railways by 2030. The Sabarmati-Botad section was the final segment to be electrified, completing the state's transition to fully electric rail transport.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



#### World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit 2025 Inaugurated in Mumbai :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the much-anticipated World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit in Mumbai, emphasizing India's growing influence in global media. The event gathers film makers, OTT platforms, and digital creators, fostering collaboration in content production. Discussions include AI-driven storytelling, ethical journalism, and India's role as a content hub. Global industry leaders expressed admiration for India's advancements in entertainment technology. The summit aims to boost India's exports of creative content, strengthening its position as a powerhouse in the world's entertainment sector.



#### National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave 2025 :-

The Ministry of Ayush hosted the National Ayush Mission Conclave 2025 on May 1-2 in Lonavala, Maharashtra. The event aims to strengthen the integration of traditional Indian medicine systems into mainstream healthcare. Discussions were focused on Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy. The conclave also launched the Ayush Policy 2025 Blueprint and Standard Treatment Guidelines for metabolic disorders. Government representatives highlighted policies supporting Ayurveda-based treatments and infrastructure development.



#### India Advocates Global Action on Chemicals and Waste at BRS COPs 2025 :-

At the 2025 Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions held in Geneva, India played a proactive role in championing robust global responses to hazardous chemicals and waste management. Led by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the Indian delegation emphasized the need for a predictable international financing mechanism alongside domestic strategies such as

progressive taxation, carbon levies, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).



#### UK, Japan and Russia to Join Global Media Dialogue At WAVES 2025 :-

In a landmark initiative at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai, key international players—including the United Kingdom, Japan, and Russia—are set to participate in the Global Media Dialogue. Chaired by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, this forum brings together delegates from over 60 countries to deliberate on shaping the future of media and entertainment. The dialogue will focus on issues ranging from ethical AI deployment in content creation to combating misinformation and promoting cross-cultural exchanges.



#### Maldives president holds record 15-hour press conference:-

In an unprecedented display of transparency and commitment to media engagement, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu conducted a nearly 15-hour press conference, setting a new world record for longevity. Beginning at 10:00 am local time and lasting 14 hours and

54 minutes with only brief prayer breaks, the marathon session surpassed the previous record held by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Throughout the extensive press conference, the president addressed a diverse range of questions from both journalists and members of the public, highlighting key national policies and initiatives.



#### **Singapore president highlights India's Aspirational Districts programme at Philanthropy Asia Summit :-**

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam praised India's Aspirational Districts Programme at the Philanthropy Asia Summit 2025, calling it a model for uplifting underdeveloped regions. Launched in 2018, the initiative aims to transform 112 districts through community-driven governance. Key focus areas include maternal health, education, and local administration, significantly improving socio-economic indicators. Singapore sees India's program as a successful blueprint for global development, emphasizing public-private cooperation.



#### **India, Italy explore ways to strengthen economic ties at ADB meet :-**

At the 58th ADB Annual Meeting in Milan, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met her Italian counterpart Giancarlo Giorgetti to discuss economic cooperation. The

talks focused on renewable energy, digital technologies, agri-food processing, and high-end manufacturing. India invited Italian firms to invest through Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. Both nations also discussed multilateral development bank reforms and collaboration in green hydrogen and carbon capture.



#### **2025 Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) conference:-**

Held in Dubai, the Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025 conference focused on maritime logistics, digital transformation, and sustainability. Industry leaders discussed global shipping challenges, emphasizing technological innovations, climate-friendly practices, and supply chain resilience. A key highlight was the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) expanding operations to Saudi Arabia, strengthening compliance and safety measures. The event fostered new business partnerships, showcasing port advancements, automation, and environmental solutions to enhance international maritime trade.



#### **12th edition of the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) :-**

India is hosting the 12th Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025), in New Delhi. Organized by the

International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and ISRO, the event features over 1800 participants from 36 countries. The conference focuses on interplanetary exploration, space diplomacy, and technological advancements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's commitment to global space cooperation, highlighting missions like Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and Mars exploration.



#### **Delhi to host global Ayurveda summit :-**

Delhi is set to host a Global Ayurveda Summit, aimed at promoting Ayurvedic medicine and start-ups. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced plans to support Ayurveda-based innovations and digitize ancient texts. The summit will bring together experts, academicians, and practitioners to discuss new initiatives in Ayurveda. The Delhi government has allocated ₹275 crore for alternative medicinal systems, including ₹100 crore for Ayush. The summit is set to enhance India's traditional medicinal presence, fostering global recognition and industry growth.



#### **India participated in the 20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF20) :-**

India actively engaged in the 20th United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF20) at the UN Headquarters, New York,

showcasing its forest conservation initiatives. India's forest cover increased to 25.17%, attributed to projects like the Aravalli Green Wall and National Afforestation Programme. India advocated for global partnerships in sustainable forest management, promoting the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to protect endangered species. The session focused on tackling deforestation, climate resilience, and biodiversity preservation, with India sharing success stories and best practices.



#### **India Gifts 15 Electric Cars To Nepal For Global Climate Summit 'Sagarmatha Sambad' :-**

India has donated 15 electric vehicles to Nepal ahead of the Sagarmatha Sambad summit, a global event discussing climate action. The gift symbolizes India's commitment to environmental sustainability and regional cooperation. The cars will be used to transport dignitaries attending the summit. Nepal, focusing on clean energy transitions, appreciates India's support in promoting green mobility. The initiative strengthens bilateral ties while aligning with efforts to reduce carbon footprints.



#### **US-China Trade Talks Conclude with Promising Deal in Geneva :-**

The US-China trade negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland concluded with a tentative agreement aimed at reducing trade tensions. The deal seeks to lower tariffs, address intellectual property concerns, and strengthen investment protections. While specifics remain undisclosed, officials described discussions as constructive, with plans for a joint consultation mechanism to manage trade relations. Analysts believe the agreement could stabilize global markets, given the impact of US-China economic tensions.



#### Regional Power Conference with Western States :-

The Ministry of Power held a regional conference in Mumbai, discussing power infrastructure security, smart metering, and future capacity planning. Western states were urged to strengthen energy security, reduce losses, and enhance grid resilience. The meeting focused on integrating renewable energy sources and modernizing distribution networks. Governments aim to implement policies ensuring stable electricity access, preparing for long-term energy demands across urban and rural areas while encouraging innovations in grid management.



#### Russia and Ukraine Hold First Direct Talks in 3 Years, Agree on Prisoner Swap :-

Russia and Ukraine met in Istanbul for their first direct talks in three years, mediated by Turkey. While no

ceasefire was agreed upon, both nations settled on swapping 1,000 prisoners each as a humanitarian gesture. Ukraine also proposed a meeting between Presidents Zelenskyy and Putin, which Russia acknowledged but did not confirm. This engagement signals a tentative step toward conflict resolution, despite ongoing military tensions. Diplomatic efforts remain critical in fostering peace, with prisoner exchanges seen as a trust-building mechanism in the prolonged war.



#### India Reaffirms Global Health Commitment at 78th World Health Assembly :-

India has reaffirmed its commitment to global health initiatives at the 78th World Health Assembly, emphasizing the importance of equitable healthcare access and disease prevention strategies. Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya outlined India's ongoing public health measures, including Ayushman Bharat, tuberculosis elimination programs, and digital health infrastructure. India advocates for a legally binding global pandemic preparedness agreement to ensure fair distribution of medical resources worldwide. The country also supports innovative financing mechanisms for developing nations to strengthen their healthcare systems.



**Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 :-**

The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 was held on May 23-24, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event attracted investment proposals worth ₹4.18 lakh crore, focusing on sectors like tourism, textiles, IT, and healthcare. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the summit aimed to boost economic development in the Northeast by bringing together investors, policymakers, and industry leaders. Discussions centered on infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth, reinforcing the region's role in India's economic expansion.

**PM Modi Chairs 10th NITI Aayog Meet :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting, discussing development strategies with state leaders. Key topics included urban growth, skill development, and economic

policies aimed at accelerating India's transformation. Modi urged states to develop at least one world-class tourist site and enhance women's workforce participation. The meeting emphasized investment-friendly policies and reviewed progress under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

**Shashi Tharoor Leads All-Party Delegation to Guyana :-**

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor led an Indian delegation to Guyana, meeting President Mohamed Irfaan Ali to discuss bilateral relations and anti-terrorism cooperation. The delegation commemorated 1838's first Indian arrival in Guyana, visiting historical landmarks and paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Discussions included trade, diplomatic partnerships, and India's global position. The visit aimed to enhance cooperation on cultural, economic, and strategic fronts, strengthening ties between the two nations.

## SECTION 2



# Practice Questions with Answers

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## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**1) The second round of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran over Iran's nuclear program was held in which of the following country?**

- A) Switzerland
- B) Italy
- C) Germany
- D) France

**2) \_\_\_\_\_ village of Sukma district has become the first Naxal-free Gram Panchayat of Bastar division in Chhattisgarh.**

- A) Bijapur
- B) Dantewada
- C) Narayanpur
- D) Badesatti

**3) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Vizhinjam International Seaport in which of the following state?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

**4) India's trade deficit with which of the following country reached \$99.2 billion in fiscal year 2024-25?**

- A) United States
- B) Russia
- C) Japan
- D) China

**5) The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) organized a two-day International Conclave on "Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North East India" in \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Ladakh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**6) \_\_\_\_\_ has officially declared April 14 as Dr. BR Ambedkar Day.**

- A) Chicago
- B) Houston
- C) Los Angeles
- D) New York

**7) A new book titled 'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay', featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches on India's culture and traditions was launched in which city?**

- A) Ahmedabad
- B) Mumbai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Varanasi

**8) Who has taken over as Vice President of Investment Solutions for the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?**

- A) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- B) Ram Mohan Naidu
- C) Santosh Kumar
- D) Vineet Joshi

**9) Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Wagner, astronauts of which of the following country have returned to Earth after a seven-month science mission on board the International Space Station (ISS)?**

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) USA

**10) Which of the following city in Maharashtra's Satara district, has achieved 100% safe segregation, collection, and disposal of sanitary and biomedical waste?**

- A) Pune
- B) Nashik
- C) Nagpur
- D) Karad

**11) Who won Male Athlete of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2025?**

- A) Armand Duplantis

- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Usain Bolt

**12) In the financial year 2025-26 India's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to expand by \_\_\_\_\_, as per the IMF.**

- A) 6.3%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 6.1%
- D) 6.0%

**13) India imposed how much safeguard duty on steel imports in a move to protect the domestic steel industry?**

- A) 15%
- B) 12%
- C) 10%
- D) 8%

**14) Which nation's coast guard vessel did the Indian Navy repair?**

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Maldives
- C) Mauritius
- D) Sri Lanka

**15) Who among the following was appointed Executive Director at Reliance Industries for five-year term?**

- A) Akash Ambani
- B) Anant Ambani
- C) Isha Ambani
- D) Mukesh Ambani

**16) In which nation did India deliver the second set of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles?**

- A) Indonesia
- B) Malaysia
- C) Philippines
- D) Vietnam

**17) How much percentage of Orient Cement that Ambuja Cements purchased?**

- A) 37.8%
- B) 37.2%
- C) 36.7%

- D) 35.5%

**18) Where were two Guinness World Records set for the largest Madhubani painting and the largest singing bowl assembly?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

**19) India's trade deficit increased with which nation in FY 2024–2025?**

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) United States

**20) Who was chosen to be the Assam Rifles' first female dog handler?**

- A) Ananya Singh
- B) Meenakshi Sharma
- C) Priya Jhingan
- D) Sreelakshmi PV

**21) In the IPL, who became the second-fastest batter to reach a century?**

- A) Rohit Sharma
- B) Suryakumar Yadav
- C) Vaibhav Suryavanshi
- D) Virat Kohli

**22) The National AYUSH Mission Conference by the AYUSH Ministry was held in which of the following city?**

- A) Hyderabad
- B) Jaipur
- C) Lonavala
- D) New Delhi

**23) Who was chosen to be Telangana's new chief secretary?**

- A) Revanth Reddy
- B) Khetram Ram
- C) K. Ramakrishna Rao
- D) Alka Tiwari

**24) In which state was the ₹2100 crore PM MITRA Textile Park approved?**



- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

**25) The Department of Posts will soon release a commemorative stamp of \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate their centenary year.**

- A) Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
- B) Kailash Satyarthi
- C) Lata Mangeshkar
- D) Pandit Chatur Lal

**26) Who was chosen to serve as the Commissioner of Police in Mumbai?**

- A) Sujata Chaturvedi
- B) Lisamma P.B.
- C) Deven Bharti
- D) Arvind Srivastava



**27) Which company did India Post collaborate with to make KYC verification easier?**

- A) SBI Mutual Fund
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

**28) Which municipal corporation issued India's first certified Green Municipal Bonds?**

- A) Surat
- B) Pune
- C) Ghaziabad
- D) Ahmedabad

**29) Who was elected as Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister?**

- A) Kamla Persad-Bissessar
- B) Keith Rowley
- C) Mark Carney
- D) Stuart Young

**30) According to the 2025 SIPRI survey, which country spends the most money on its military?**

- A) United States
- B) Russia
- C) India
- D) China

**31) Who took over the post of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff?**

- A) R. Hari Kumar
- B) Manoj Pande
- C) Anil Chauhan
- D) Ashutosh Dixit

**32) Who became the Additional Director General of Military Nursing Service in New Delhi?**

- A) Lisamma P.V.
- B) Nidhi Khare
- C) Shree Lakshmi
- D) Sujata Chaturvedi

**33) Election Commission launch its election officials' capacity-building initiative in which of the following city?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Kolkata
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

**34) Who recently resigned as South Korea's interim president?**

- A) Han Duck-soo
- B) Lee Myung-bak
- C) Park Geun-hye
- D) Yoon Suk Yeol

**35) Who was sworn in as a Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) member?**

- A) Sujata Chaturvedi
- B) Shree Lakshmi P.B.
- C) Anuradha Prasad
- D) Alok Joshi

**36) Renowned Malayalam \_\_\_\_\_ Vishnu Prasad passed away recently.**

- A) Actor
- B) Journalist
- C) Cricketer
- D) Musician

**37) In which of the following city the 9-foot statue of Bodofa Upendranath Brahma was unveiled?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai

- C) Kolkata
- D) Guwahati

**38) Who was chosen to serve as the Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations?**

- A) Linda Thomas-Greenfield
- B) Mike Waltz
- C) Nikki Haley
- D) Tulsi Gabbard

**39) Who became the commander of the Army's Northern Command?**

- A) Major General Lisamma P.B.
- B) Pratik Sharma
- C) Devendra Bharti
- D) Ashutosh Dixit

**40) Which state has banned the burning of stubble?**

- A) Haryana
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Uttar Pradesh



**41) Which country will India donate \$200 million in assistance to for the advancement of its military?**

- A) Angola
- B) Botswana
- C) Ghana
- D) Namibia

**42) Which country inked a Memorandum of Understanding with India to strengthen energy cooperation?**

- A) Denmark
- B) Finland
- C) Norway
- D) Sweden

**43) The world's first Energy Transmission Park was inaugurated in which of the following state?**

- A) Telangana
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**44) Who was accepted into Mensa International, the world's highest-ranked high-IQ society?**

- A) Vandan Patel
- B) Sujata Kar
- C) Soumya Guguloth
- D) Sarvpriya Sangwan

**45) Which group has launched the new digital platform, ECINET?**

- A) Election Commission of India
- B) ISRO
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) Reserve Bank of India

**46) Which country's president broke the global record by conducting a 15-hour press conference?**

- A) Belarus
- B) Maldives
- C) Moldova
- D) Ukraine

**47) Who earned a second tenure as Prime Minister of Australia?**

- A) Anthony Albanese
- B) Christian Stocker
- C) Lawrence Wong
- D) Mark Carney

**48) Where was the first AI-based data center park in the nation established?**

- A) Nava Raipur
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bhopal
- D) Bengaluru

**49) Which state is proposing to add the Lakkundi monuments to UNESCO's list of world heritage sites?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Karnataka
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Tamil Nadu

**50) Who was removed from the IMF before their term was up by the Indian government?**

- A) Anuradha Prasad
- B) Krishnamurthy Subramanian
- C) Masatsugu Asakawa
- D) Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal

**51) Which Indian city has British and Australian institutions opted to create campuses?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Navi Mumbai
- D) Pune

**52) Which country was the first to generate genome-edited rice varieties?**

- A) United States
- B) Japan
- C) India
- D) China

**53) Where did the Asian Development Bank Board of Governors hold its 58th Annual Meeting?**

- A) Tokyo
- B) Singapore
- C) Milan
- D) Manila



**54) Which country will make Artificial Intelligence an obligatory topic in all government schools?**

- A) UAE
- B) Singapore
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Qatar

**55) How much of a levy on foreign films did the US president announce?**

- A) 100%
- B) 75%
- C) 50%
- D) 25%

**56) Where was the 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom was held?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Patna
- C) New Delhi
- D) Hyderabad

**57) Where did the Thrissur Pooram festival was held?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala

- D) Tamil Nadu

**58) In what locations did the government authorize the development of greenfield airports to improve connectivity?**

- A) Puri and Kota
- B) Bhopal and Indore
- C) Jaipur and Udaipur
- D) Surat and Vadodara

**59) Which nation joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 123rd member?**

- A) Angola
- B) Botswana
- C) Ghana
- D) Namibia

**60) Renowned \_\_\_\_\_ K.V. Rabiya passed away recently.**

- A) Social Activist
- B) Scientist
- C) Politician
- D) Journalist

**61) Which nation topped the UNDP's 2025 Human Development Index?**

- A) Denmark
- B) Iceland
- C) Norway
- D) Switzerland

**62) What is Moody's expected GDP growth rate for India in 2025?**

- A) 5.8%
- B) 6.0%
- C) 6.1%
- D) 6.3%

**63) For the next 25 years, which state government will buy 1500 MW of electricity at reasonable prices?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Bihar

**64) In which of the following city the 2025 Global Space Exploration Summit (GLEX) was held?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Bengaluru

**65) Luis Galvan, footballer from which of the following country passed away recently?**

- A) Argentina
- B) Brazil
- C) Mexico
- D) Spain

**66) What was the key outcome of Operation Sindoar, as highlighted by PM Modi in May 2025?**

- A) India signed a peace treaty with Pakistan
- B) Indian forces dismantled terror networks deep within Pakistani territory
- C) Indian Army withdrew from border areas
- D) A new defense pact was signed with the USA

**67) Which state government approved a Rs. 47 crore plan in May 2025 to tackle human-elephant conflict?**

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Assam

**68) India's retail inflation rate in April 2025 was recorded at what percentage, the lowest since July 2019?**

- A) 4.83%
- B) 2.92%
- C) 3.16%
- D) 5.20%

**69) Which date has been officially designated by the Government of India for celebrating Ayurveda Day annually from 2025 onwards?**

- A) 15th August
- B) 14th November
- C) 23rd September
- D) Dhanteras (variable date)

**70) In May 2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a draft manual concerning the rating of properties for which purpose?**

- A) Environmental compliance
- B) Fire safety standards
- C) Digital connectivity
- D) Earthquake resistance

**71) Which state will house India's sixth semiconductor manufacturing unit, approved under the India Semiconductor Mission in 2024?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

**72) Who was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India in May 2025?**

- A) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- B) Justice K.G. Balakrishnan
- C) Justice B.R. Gavai
- D) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

**73) Which AI-driven air defence system developed by BEL proved its operational capabilities during recent drone attacks from Pakistan?**

- A) Akash
- B) Prithvi
- C) Akash
- D) Astra

**74) Which Indian cricketers will retain their Grade A+ BCCI central contracts post retirement from T20Is and Test cricket?**

- A) KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant
- B) Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma
- C) Shubman Gill and Jasprit Bumrah
- D) Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya

**75) Who was appointed as Canada's Foreign Minister in 2025, tasked with improving ties with India?**

- A) Chrystia Freeland
- B) Harjit Sajjan
- C) Anita Anand
- D) Ruby Sahota

**76) Which technology did DRDO recently develop to enhance seawater desalination for Indian Coast Guard ships?**

- A) Reverse osmosis using ceramic membranes
- B) High-pressure nanoporous multi-layered polymeric membrane
- C) Graphene-based filtration system
- D) Bio-mimetic desalination membrane

**77) Who recently assumed charge as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?**

- A) Raj Shukla
- B) Manoj Joshi
- C) Dr. Ajay Kumar
- D) Kunal Satyarthi

**78) India's forest cover has seen a steady increase since which year, according to the latest SBI Research report?**

- A) 1981
- B) 2001
- C) 2011
- D) 2021



**79) What was a key feature of the recently concluded anti-Naxal operation in Karreguttalu Hills in 2025?**

- A) Total withdrawal of security forces from the region
- B) Elimination of 31 Naxalites without any casualties among security personnel
- C) Peace talks with Naxal leaders
- D) Introduction of development schemes only

**80) Which country recently signed a \$243.5 billion economic deal with the United States, including a historic Boeing aircraft order?**

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Qatar
- D) Turkey

**81) Which Indian institute has recently set up its first overseas campus in Dubai, marking a historic step in global expansion?**

- A) Indian Institute of Management (IIM)

B) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

C) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)

D) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

**82) Which country recently confirmed its first outbreak of avian influenza on a commercial poultry farm, raising concerns over global poultry trade?**

- A) India
- B) Brazil
- C) China
- D) United States

**83) Who is set to represent India as a crew member for its first biological experiment aboard the International Space Station (ISS) set for June 2025?**

- A) Rakesh Sharma
- B) Sunita Williams
- C) Shubhanshu Shukla
- D) Raja Chari

**84) Which state celebrated its 50th anniversary of statehood in May 2025?**

- A) Goa
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Sikkim
- D) Manipur

**85) What is the projected growth rate for India's economy in 2025, according to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects report?**

- A) 4.6%
- B) 6.4%
- C) 2.4%
- D) 1.6%

**86) Which Indian athlete became the first from the country to cross the 90-metre mark in javelin, setting a new national record at the Doha Diamond League 2025?**

- A) Annu Rani
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Davinder Singh Kang
- D) Shivpal Singh

**87) Which award did President Droupadi Murmu present to Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for his contribution to Indian literature?**

- A) Sahitya Akademi Award
- B) Padma Shri
- C) Jnanpith Award
- D) Bharatiya Gyanpeeth Puraskar

**88) India's forex reserves recently crossed which milestone according to RBI data released in May 2025?**

- A) \$500 billion
- B) \$600 billion
- C) \$650 billion
- D) \$690 billion

**89) Which Indian ministry partnered with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to promote climate-tech entrepreneurship?**

- A) Ministry of Power
- B) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- D) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

**90) What new milestone was achieved by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in April 2025?**

- A) 100 billion Aadhaar authentications
- B) Over 150 billion Aadhaar authentications
- C) First Aadhaar-based passport
- D) Launch of virtual Aadhaar cards

**91) Who will lead the Indian delegation at the 17th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025) in Malaysia?**

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C) Sanjay Seth
- D) S. Jaishankar

**92) What ex-gratia compensation did Prime Minister Modi announce for the families of those deceased in the recent Hyderabad fire tragedy?**

- A) Rs. 1 lakh
- B) Rs. 2 lakh
- C) Rs. 5 lakh
- D) Rs. 50,000

**93) Which Indian Vice President recently celebrated his 74th birthday and is known for his deep knowledge of the Constitution?**

- A) Venkaiah Naidu
- B) M. Hamid Ansari
- C) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- D) Krishan Kant

**94) What was the outcome of ISRO's recent EOS-09 satellite launch?**

- A) Mission successfully placed satellite in orbit
- B) Launch postponed due to weather
- C) Technical anomaly in third stage led to mission failure
- D) Satellite lost contact after deployment

**95) Which organization did DPIIT recently sign an MoU with to support climate-tech entrepreneurship in India?**

- A) World Bank
- B) International Solar Alliance
- C) Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)
- D) Asian Development Bank

**96) What is the primary aim of the recently launched Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan in India?**

- A) To provide free seeds to all farmers
- B) To promote organic farming only
- C) To modernize agriculture through scientific and sustainable practices
- D) To increase the export of Indian spices

**97) Which Indian state saw a record protection of 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles under 'Operation Olivia' in February 2025?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Odisha
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**98) What was the main theme of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany in May 2025?**

- A) Military cooperation only
- B) Boosting bilateral ties and strategic partnerships
- C) Negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU
- D) Discussing only climate change issues

**99) According to a May 2025 ICRA report, India's GDP growth in Q4 FY2025 is estimated at what rate?**

- A) 5.2%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 6.9%
- D) 7.5%

**100) Which technology did Nvidia announce it will offer to other companies to speed up AI chip communication, as revealed at Computex 2025?**

- A) TensorFlow
- B) NVLink Fusion
- C) CUDA Core
- D) QuantumLink

**101) Who recently inaugurated the Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes in New Delhi?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Rekha Gupta
- C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- D) Chirag Paswan

**102) Which health scheme was highlighted by PM Modi at the 78th World Health Assembly as the world's largest health insurance initiative?**

- A) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- B) Ayushman Bharat
- C) National Health Mission
- D) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

**103) CERT-In SAMVAAD 2025, a key national cybersecurity conference, was recently held in which Indian state?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Gujarat



**104) Which renowned Indian astrophysicist, known for the steady state model of the universe, passed away recently at age 86?**

- A) M.R. Srinivasan
- B) Jayant Narlikar
- C) C.N.R. Rao
- D) Venkatraman Ramakrishnan

**105) Who inaugurated the Delhi Games 2025 at Talkatora Stadium?**

- A) Ashish Sood
- B) Rekha Gupta
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Bhupinder Singh Hooda

**106) Which state has become the first in India to achieve full functional literacy, as recently declared?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Ladakh
- C) Mizoram
- D) Goa

**107) What is the main objective of the recently concluded 16th lion census in Gujarat?**

- A) To relocate lions to other states
- B) To estimate tiger population
- C) To assess Asiatic lion numbers and habitat spread
- D) To study migratory birds

**108) Which Indian writer became the first Kannada author to win the International Booker Prize?**

- A) Kota Shivarama Karanth
- B) Shashi Deshpande
- C) Banu Mushtaq
- D) U. R. Ananthamurthy

**109) Which ministry announced the commencement of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in June 2025?**

- A) Ministry of Tourism
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Culture

**110) What is the primary focus of India's Green Strategic Partnership with Denmark, recently highlighted during EAM Jaishankar's visit?**

- A) Space exploration
- B) Defence manufacturing
- C) Sustainable development and climate action
- D) Nuclear energy cooperation

**111) Which campaign was launched by the Indian government ahead of World Environment Day to combat plastic pollution?**

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B) One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution
- C) Clean Ganga Initiative
- D) Green India Mission

**112) Under the PM e-Drive Scheme, which Indian city is set to receive the highest allocation of electric buses in the current phase?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Ahmedabad

**113) Which area witnessed the elimination of 27 Maoists, including top leader Basavaraju, in a landmark security operation in May 2025?**

- A) Jharkhand
- B) Abujhmad, Chhattisgarh
- C) Odisha
- D) Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

**114) According to the RBI's April 2025 report, India is expected to surpass which country to become the world's fourth-largest economy?**

- A) Germany
- B) United Kingdom
- C) Japan
- D) France

**115) Which initiative is transforming Indian railway stations with modern amenities and local architecture, as seen in the inauguration of 103 stations in May 2025?**

- A) Golden Quadrilateral Project

- B) Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
- C) Make in India
- D) Sagarmala Project

**116) Which sector received a massive investment boost in India's Northeast during the Rising North East Investors Summit 2025?**

- A) Automobile manufacturing
- B) Textiles
- C) Energy and semiconductors
- D) Petrochemicals

**117) What is the main objective of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme recently highlighted by PM Modi?**

- A) Privatize Indian Railways
- B) Redevelop and modernize railway stations across India
- C) Increase railway freight charges
- D) Introduce bullet trains only in metros

**118) Which country did India reaffirm solidarity with in the fight against terrorism during 'Operation Sindoor' outreach in May 2025?**

- A) United States
- B) France
- C) Russia
- D) Japan

**119) What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in Q4 FY25 according to CareEdge Ratings?**

- A) 5.1%
- B) 7.5%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 8.2%

**120) Which Indian region is being positioned as a gateway to ASEAN through major infrastructure initiatives?**

- A) Western Ghats
- B) North-East
- C) Deccan Plateau
- D) Coastal Andhra

**121) What is the newly launched Indian maritime initiative that expands on the SAGAR doctrine to a global scale?**

- A) Blue Economy Mission
- B) SAMUDRA Vision
- C) MAHASAGAR Initiative
- D) OCEANIC21 Program

**122) Who has been appointed as India's new Test cricket captain for the upcoming England tour starting June 2025?**

- A) Rohit Sharma
- B) KL Rahul
- C) Shubman Gill
- D) Jasprit Bumrah

**123) What interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits has the Indian government ratified for FY 2024-25?**

- A) 8.00%
- B) 8.15%
- C) 8.25%
- D) 8.50%



**124) Which Indian city recently experienced the earliest onset of the South West Monsoon since 2009?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Kolkata
- D) Kerala

**125) Which country recently imposed sanctions on Sudan over the use of chemical weapons in 2024?**

- A) United Kingdom
- B) United States
- C) France
- D) Germany

**126) Which recently announced Indian initiative promotes mindful consumption and sustainable living as part of a fair climate responsibility model?**

- A) Green India Mission
- B) Mission LiFE
- C) Clean Ganga Project

D) National Solar Mission

**127) During the ongoing US-Iran nuclear talks, what primary demand has Tehran rejected?**

- A) Complete dismantling of nuclear facilities
- B) Ending oil exports
- C) Zero uranium enrichment
- D) Joining NATO

**128) Which football club recently won the Serie A title for the fourth time?**

- A) Inter Milan
- B) Juventus
- C) Napoli
- D) AC Milan

**129) Which film festival's top prize winner in 2024, 'Anora', also won five Oscars including Best Picture?**

- A) Venice Film Festival
- B) Berlin International Film Festival
- C) Cannes Film Festival
- D) Toronto International Film Festival

**130) Which initiative has the CBSE recently mandated in all affiliated schools to address rising Type 2 diabetes among children?**

- A) Smart Classrooms
- B) Sugar Boards
- C) Physical Fitness Clubs
- D) Mental Health Desks

**131) Which country recently reaffirmed its support for India's stance against terrorism during the aftermath of Operation Sindo?**

- A) Brazil
- B) Guyana
- C) United Kingdom
- D) France

**132) What is the primary purpose of the newly inaugurated Locomotive Manufacturing Plant in Dahod, Gujarat?**

- A) Producing high-speed passenger trains exclusively
- B) Manufacturing diesel locomotives for exports
- C) Producing 9,000 HP electric locomotives

D) Developing metro rail coaches

**133) Which Indian-developed satellite navigation system played a crucial role in Operation Sindoor in 2025?**

- A) GPS
- B) GLONASS
- C) NavIC
- D) Galileo

**134) What major economic milestone did India achieve recently, as highlighted by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal?**

- A) Becoming the world's second-largest economy
- B) Becoming the world's fifth-largest economy
- C) Becoming the world's fourth-largest economy
- D) Surpassing China's GDP

**135) Which recent infrastructure initiative in Gujarat is focused on renewable energy evacuation and ultra-supercritical thermal power?**

- A) Delhi-Mumbai Expressway
- B) Khavda Renewable Energy Park transmission projects
- C) Bangalore Metro Expansion
- D) Mumbai Coastal Road

**136) Which Indian state recently celebrated 20 years of its structured urban transformation, with PM Modi launching Urban Development Year 2025?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

**137) What is the main objective of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme recently approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?**

- A) Developing a new transport aircraft
- B) Building a fifth-generation fighter jet
- C) Upgrading existing MiG-21s
- D) Producing attack helicopters

**138) Which Indian government scheme, launched in 2014, aimed to make India open-defecation-free by 2019?**

- A) Jal Jeevan Mission
- B) Swachh Bharat Mission
- C) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- D) Ayushman Bharat

**139) Which new high-resolution weather forecast system was launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh recently?**

- A) Mausam 2.0
- B) Bharat Forecast System
- C) IMD NextGen
- D) Vayu Pranali

**140) Which Latin American President is set to visit India in June 2025, marking only the second-ever such visit from his country?**

- A) Gabriel Boric (Chile)
- B) Luis Lacalle Pou (Uruguay)
- C) Santiago Pena Palacios (Paraguay)
- D) Alberto Fernández (Argentina)

**141) Which major infrastructure project was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in Kanpur to improve urban mobility?**

- A) Lucknow Metro Rail Project
- B) Kanpur Metro Rail Project
- C) Delhi Metro Blue Line Extension
- D) Varanasi Monorail Project

**142) Which Indian folk music legend was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan?**

- A) Kishori Amonkar
- B) Dr. Sharda Sinha
- C) Pandit Bhimsen Joshi
- D) Begum Akhtar

**143) With which Indian company has Microsoft partnered to accelerate AI adoption in India?**

- A) Reliance Jio
- B) Tata Consultancy Services
- C) Yotta Data Services
- D) Infosys

**144) Which Indian city recently inaugurated a new passenger terminal at its airport, aiming to handle up to 1 crore passengers annually?**

- A) Patna
- B) Jaipur
- C) Lucknow
- D) Bhopal

**145) Which immune cells were recently identified as crucial for the body's tolerance to food, according to a study by Israeli scientists?**

- A) B cells
- B) Neutrophils
- C) ROR-gamma-t cells
- D) Dendritic cells

**146) Which state recently celebrated its 50th year of statehood with the theme 'Where Progress Meets Purpose, and Nature Nurtures Growth'?**

- A) Manipur
- B) Sikkim
- C) Nagaland
- D) Mizoram

**147) Crisil has projected India's GDP growth for fiscal 2026 at what percentage?**

- A) 5.2%

- B) 7.1%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 8.0%

**148) Who defeated World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura to clinch Norway Chess 2025?**

- A) Magnus Carlsen
- B) Arjun Erigaisi
- C) D Gukesh
- D) Vedit Gujrathi

**149) Which project did PM Modi inaugurate in West Bengal's Alipurduar to boost clean energy infrastructure?**

- A) Solar Park Project
- B) City Gas Distribution Project
- C) Wind Energy Park
- D) Hydropower Station

**150) PM Modi recently reviewed which major governance platform, covering infra projects worth over ₹62,000 crore?**

- A) PRAGATI
- B) Sagarmala
- C) Digital India
- D) Samarth

## ANSWERS

**1) Correct Answer: B**

The second round of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran over Iran's nuclear program was held in Rome, Italy. The US delegation was led by Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, while Iran was represented by Foreign Minister Araghchi. Oman played the role of mediator.

**2) Correct Answer: D**

In Chhattisgarh, Badesatti village of Sukma district has become the first Naxal-free Gram Panchayat of Bastar division. Eleven Maoists active in this village surrendered before the Superintendent of Police in Sukma. Chhattisgarh is moving rapidly towards fulfilling the resolution of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to make the country Naxal-free by March 2026.

**3) Correct Answer: C**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Vizhinjam International Seaport, a strategic maritime project near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on May 2. Making the announcement, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Vizhinjam is India's first semi-automated transhipment port.

**4) Correct Answer: D**

India recorded a trade deficit of \$99.2 billion with China in the 2024/25 fiscal year that ended in March, trade data showed, driven by a surge in imports of electronics goods and consumer durables. In March alone, goods imports from China jumped over 25% year-on-year to

\$9.7 billion, led by electronics, electric batteries and solar cells.

**5) Correct Answer: A**

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) organized a two-day International Conclave on "Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North East India" in Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh. This conclave, co-organized with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, focused on the historical roots of Buddha Dhamma and its cultural impact in the Northeast Indian region.

**6) Correct Answer: D**

New York city declared April 14 as Dr. BR Ambedkar Day, acknowledging his towering legacy in advancing democracy, dignity, women's empowerment and justice for historically marginalised communities. Deputy commissioner for the New York City mayor's Office for International Affairs Dilip Chauhan made the announcement in the presence of Union minister Ramdas Athawale.

**7) Correct Answer: C**

A book titled Sanskriti Ka Panchva Adhyay, a compilation of speeches delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various occasions, was launched in New Delhi recently. The head of the Juna Akhara, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri, launched the book.

**8) Correct Answer: A**

Former finance secretary and chief of the India's audit regulator Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey has been appointed vice-president at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). A 1984-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, he had also served as the chief executive officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India.

**9) Correct Answer: C**

Russian astronauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Wagner recently returned to Earth along with American Donald Pettit after a seven-month science mission on board the International Space Station (ISS). NASA said in a statement that the crew arrived on the orbiting ISS laboratory on September 11, 2024, spending 220 days in space during which they orbited the Earth 3,520 times.

**10) Correct Answer: D**

Karad, a small city in Maharashtra's Satara district, has achieved 100% segregation, collection, and processing of sanitary and biomedical waste, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced. According to the statement, the city collects an average of 300 to 350 kg of sanitary waste daily.

**11) Correct Answer: A**

The 25th edition of the Laureus Awards was held in Madrid, honouring the best athletes of the year. Simone Biles and Armand "Mondo" Duplantis were named female and male Athletes of the Year respectively, while Real Madrid won the award for Best Team.

**12) Correct Answer: B**

India is poised to lead the global economy once again, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting it to remain the fastest growing major economy over the next two years. According to the April 2025 edition of the IMF's World Economic Outlook, India's economy is expected to grow by 6.2 per cent in FY 2025-26.

**13) Correct Answer: B**

India has implemented a 12% safeguard duty on specific steel products to control excessive imports, as indicated by a government notification. India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, was also a net importer of finished steel for the second consecutive year in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

**14) Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Navy has completed a major refit of the Maldivian Coast Guard ship MNDF Huravee as part of India's 'MAHASAGAR' vision and the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, an official statement said. The effort is also a part of India's broader commitment to regional maritime security, it said.

**15) Correct Answer: B**

In a major move, Reliance Industries Ltd has appointed Anant Ambani, the younger son of Mukesh Ambani, as Executive Director of the company. Anant Ambani has already been involved with Reliance, focusing on the company's energy and sustainability projects.

**16) Correct Answer: C**

India has dispatched a second batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system to the Philippines, fulfilling its contractual obligation signed in 2022 between the two nations. Last year, India had transported the first of the three the BrahMos missiles, having range of 290 km and speed of 2.8 Mach, as part of the \$375 million worth deal.

**17) Correct Answer: A**

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cements has completed the acquisition of 37.8 per cent promoters' stake of CK Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) and has become a promoter. With this, the total shareholding of Ambuja Cements in OCL has gone up to 46.66 per cent, as it has also acquired 1.82 crore share representing 8.87 per cent from public shareholders of OCL.

**18) Correct Answer: A**

Bihar has set two Guinness World Records for the largest Madhubani painting (201.17sqft) and singing bowl ensemble by 375 Buddhist monks of Bodh Gaya ahead of Khelo India Youth Games 2025. The games are being held for the first time in Bihar — at Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur and Begusarai.

**19) Correct Answer: A**

India's trade deficit with China surged to a record level in the fiscal year ended March 31, almost touching the \$100 billion-mark, latest government data showed. In 2024-25, India imported Chinese merchandise worth \$113.45 billion, a 11.5% jump from \$101.73 billion imported the previous financial year.

**20) Correct Answer: D**

In a historic achievement, Riflewoman Sreelakshmi PV has become the first woman dog handler in Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary force. This milestone marks a major stride toward gender inclusivity, with women now representing around 4.01% of the force's total strength.

**21) Correct Answer: C**

Fourteen-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the second-fastest centurion in men's Twenty20 cricket as he guided Rajasthan Royals to an eight-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match in Jaipur. Suryavanshi's century was also the quickest by an

Indian in the IPL, bettering Yusuf Pathan's 37-ball effort for Rajasthan against the Mumbai Indians in 2010.

**22) Correct Answer: C**

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has organized the National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave 2025 on 1-2 May 2025 at Kaivalyadham, Lonavala, Maharashtra. The conclave was inaugurated by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush.

**23) Correct Answer: C**

Telangana state Government has appointed the Special Chief Secretary of the Finance Department, K. Ramakrishna Rao, of the 1991 IAS batch, as the Chief Secretary of Telangana in place of A. Santhi Kumari. Ramakrishna Rao has been working in the Finance Department since 2014.

**24) Correct Answer: C**

Madhya Pradesh has received formal approval for the ₹2,100 crore PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park project. The project has been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Textiles and will be the first integrated textile park of its kind in India, CM Mohan Yadav said.

**25) Correct Answer: D**

The Department of Posts, Government of India, will release a commemorative stamp to honour tabla exponent Pandit Chatur Lal, the first Indian percussionist to introduce tabla to the West in the 1950s. The stamp will be unveiled during the grand finale of Chatur Lal's ongoing centenary celebrations, to conclude in April 2026.

**26) Correct Answer: C**

IPS officer Deven Bharti was appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai. Over the years, he has been at the forefront of several high-profile investigations, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the crackdown on Indian Mujahideen (IM) modules, and the Sheena Bora murder case.

**27) Correct Answer: A**

The Department of Posts has partnered SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFM) to simplify the customer on-boarding process for mutual fund (MF) investors. The

collaboration will leverage India Post's extensive network to provide doorstep KYC verification services for investors of SBI Mutual Fund.

**28) Correct Answer: C**

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) has made a landmark achievement by issuing India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, raising ₹150 crore to fund a Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP).

**29) Correct Answer: A**

Kamla Persad-Bissessar will be the next Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Her party United National Congress has won the parliamentary election of the twin-island Caribbean nation. The victory marks a remarkable comeback for 73 year old Persad-Bissesar who previously served as Prime Minister from 2010-2015.

**30) Correct Answer: A**

India is the fifth-largest military spender globally, spending almost nine times more than Pakistan said a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The United States remains by far the world's biggest military spender – almost a trillion dollars in 2024, the report said.

**31) Correct Answer: D**

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the role of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, succeeding Lt Gen JP Mathew. His extensive experience in operational planning and joint warfare strategy will strengthen India's defense integration efforts, ensuring effective coordination between the three armed forces for national security and military preparedness.

**32) Correct Answer: A**

Major General Lisamma P.V. was appointed Additional Director General of Military Nursing Service, succeeding Major General Sheena PD. With a distinguished career in military nursing, she aims to enhance healthcare support for armed forces personnel, focusing on operational medical readiness and welfare initiatives in military hospitals across India.

**33) Correct Answer: D**

The Election Commission launched a specialized training program at India International Institute of Democracy

and Election Management (IIIDEM) in New Delhi to upskill Booth Level Officers and Electoral Registration Officers. This initiative improves efficiency in voter registration, polling management, and electoral transparency ahead of upcoming elections.

**34) Correct Answer: A**

Han Duck-soo, South Korea's acting President, resigned recently. His resignation signals his intent to contest the presidential elections. As a seasoned politician, his leadership approach and governance policies will shape the nation's future trajectory amid economic challenges and regional diplomatic engagements.

**35) Correct Answer: C**

Anuradha Prasad, a former bureaucrat, was sworn in as Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) member. With administrative expertise, she aims to contribute to merit-based recruitment for civil services, ensuring transparent selection processes to strengthen India's governance and bureaucratic framework.

**36) Correct Answer: A**

Vishnu Prasad was a renowned Malayalam actor known for his compelling villainous roles in television serials and films. His career spanned both cinema and television, with notable performances in serials like Sthreepadam and Swayamvaram. He also appeared in films such as Kaasi, Runway, and Lion.

**37) Correct Answer: A**

A 9-foot statue of Bodofa Upendranath Brahma was unveiled in New Delhi. The event coincided with his 35th death anniversary and was attended by dignitaries such as Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**38) Correct Answer: B**

U.S. President Donald Trump recently nominated Mike Waltz as the next United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Waltz previously served as the National Security Advisor and has a background in military service and Congress. His appointment follows a reshuffling of Trump's national security team, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio temporarily assuming Waltz's previous role.

**39) Correct Answer: B**

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma has assumed command of the Indian Army's Northern Command. He succeeded Lt. Gen. M.V. Suchindra Kumar, who retired on April 30. Sharma has extensive operational experience, having commanded an infantry battalion, brigade, and division along the Line of Control, as well as a strike corps in the Western Sector.

**40) Correct Answer: B**

Madhya Pradesh has imposed a strict ban on stubble burning to curb pollution. The state government announced that farmers found burning stubble would lose benefits under the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme and would be barred from selling their produce at the minimum support price for a year.

**41) Correct Answer: A**

India has announced a \$200 million defence credit line to Angola for the modernization of its armed forces. This initiative was revealed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's discussions with Angolan President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, where both leaders committed to strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors, including digital infrastructure, healthcare, and critical minerals.

**42) Correct Answer: A**

India and Denmark have signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the energy sector. This agreement aims to accelerate clean energy transitions and supports India's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

**43) Correct Answer: A**

The world's first Energy Transmission Park, named Babuji Vanam, was inaugurated in Telangana. Located at Kanha Shanti Vanam, this unique garden features 40 species of trees. The park integrates eco-friendly infrastructure, acupressure pathways, and biodiversity patches, promoting meditation and wellness.

**44) Correct Answer: A**

Vandan Patel, a 7-year-old Indian-American, has been accepted into Mensa International, the world's most prestigious high-IQ society. A first grader at Savannah Country Day School in Georgia, US, Patel demonstrated

exceptional intelligence across various subjects, including astronomy, scripture, and foreign languages.

**45) Correct Answer: A**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the launch of ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating over 40 electoral applications. This initiative aims to simplify voter services, enhance cybersecurity, and provide real-time access to election data.

**46) Correct Answer: B**

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu set a world record by holding a press conference that lasted 14 hours and 54 minutes. The event, held on World Press Freedom Day, surpassed the previous record set by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2019.

**47) Correct Answer: A**

Anthony Albanese won a second term as Australia's Prime Minister in the 2025 federal election. His Labor Party defeated the Liberal-National coalition, led by Peter Dutton, securing a parliamentary majority. Albanese's campaign focused on reducing living costs, expanding healthcare access, and strengthening Australia's global trade relations.

**48) Correct Answer: A**

The foundation stone for India's first AI-based Data Center Park was laid in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The park, spread across 13.5 acres, will focus on AI-driven services, data analytics, and high-performance computing.

**49) Correct Answer: B**

The Lakkundi monuments, located in Karnataka, have been proposed for inclusion in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. These temples, built during the Kalyana Chalukya period (10th–12th century CE), showcase a blend of Nagara, Dravida, and Bhumija architectural styles.

**50) Correct Answer: B**

Krishnamurthy Subramanian, India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was recalled six months before completing his three-year tenure. Subramanian previously served as India's Chief Economic Advisor (2018–2021) before his appointment to the IMF in 2022.

**51) Correct Answer: C**

Universities from Britain and Australia have decided to set up campuses in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Maharashtra government signed MoUs with the University of York (UK) and the University of Western Australia to establish their presence in the upcoming Education City in Navi Mumbai. This initiative aims to provide Indian students access to world-class higher education without traveling abroad.

**52) Correct Answer: C**

India has become the first country in the world to develop genome-edited rice varieties. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) introduced DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1, which promise higher yields, climate resilience, and significant water conservation.

**53) Correct Answer: C**

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank's Board of Governors was held in Milan, Italy, from May 4 to May 7, 2025. The meeting focused on economic resilience, climate change, and regional cooperation. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation, participating in key discussions and bilateral meetings with leaders from Italy, Japan, and Bhutan.

**54) Correct Answer: A**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first country to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a mandatory subject across all government schools, from kindergarten to Grade 12. The UAE Cabinet approved the curriculum to equip students with AI knowledge, including data science, algorithms, and ethical considerations.

**55) Correct Answer: A**

US President Donald Trump announced a 100% tariff on all foreign-produced movies entering the United States. The decision aims to encourage domestic film production and counter incentives offered by other countries to attract American filmmakers.

**56) Correct Answer: C**

The 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom 2025 was hosted in New Delhi, India, at the Hotel Taj Palace on May 6-7, 2025. This event focused on the latest advancements in

telecommunications, including 5G expansion, AI-driven networks, and cybersecurity innovations.

**57) Correct Answer: C**

The Thrissur Pooram festival took place at Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur, Kerala. Known as one of India's grandest temple festivals, it featured elaborate elephant parades, vibrant fireworks, and traditional percussion ensembles.

**58) Correct Answer: A**

The Indian government approved the construction of greenfield airports in Puri, Odisha, and Kota, Rajasthan. This decision aims to improve air connectivity, boost tourism, and support regional economic growth. Greenfield airports are newly developed facilities, designed to integrate modern infrastructure, better passenger services, and seamless transportation links for travelers.

**59) Correct Answer: A**

Angola officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 123rd member. The ISA, co-founded by India, promotes global collaboration in solar energy adoption, aiming to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Angola's membership strengthens Africa's commitment to sustainable development and enhances the country's focus on renewable energy investments.

**60) Correct Answer: A**

K.V. Rabiya, a noted social activist and literacy advocate, has passed away recently. She played a significant role in Kerala's literacy movement. She received numerous honors, including the Padma Shri in 2022, for her efforts in making learning accessible to marginalized communities.

**61) Correct Answer: B**

According to the Human Development Index (HDI) 2025 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Iceland secured the top position. The country achieved this ranking due to its strong emphasis on quality education, universal healthcare, sustainable economic development, and social welfare initiatives.

**62) Correct Answer: D**

Moody's projected that India's GDP growth rate in 2025 would reach 6.3%, highlighting the resilience of its economy amid global uncertainties. The credit rating agency noted that India's strong domestic consumption, infrastructure investments, and manufacturing sector expansion would drive economic growth.

**63) Correct Answer: A**

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced plans to purchase 1,500 MW of electricity at affordable rates for the next 25 years to meet rising energy demands. This initiative aims to ensure continuous power supply for industries, households, and commercial enterprises.

**64) Correct Answer: A**

The Global Space Exploration Summit (GLEX) 2025 was held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, India, bringing together leading scientists, astronauts, space agencies, and industry experts. The event focused on the latest advancements in space exploration, planetary research, and satellite technologies.

**65) Correct Answer: A**

Luis Galvan, a celebrated footballer from Argentina, passed away recently. Galvan was best known for being a key defender in Argentina's historic 1978 FIFA World Cup-winning team, contributing significantly to their victory.

**66) Correct Answer: B**

Operation Sindoor saw Indian armed forces dismantle terror networks inside Pakistani territory in May 2025. The operation destroyed nine major terrorist hideouts and eliminated over 100 terrorists. This reflected India's new policy of decisive and coordinated military action. It marks a significant shift in India's defense posture against cross-border terrorism.

**67) Correct Answer: C**

Madhya Pradesh approved a Rs. 47 crore plan in May 2025 to address human-elephant conflict. The initiative uses traditional and technological solutions for coexistence and early warning. The urgency followed recent tragic incidents involving elephants and humans. This proactive step aims to protect both wildlife and rural communities in the state.

**68) Correct Answer: C**

India's retail inflation rate in April 2025 was 3.16%, the lowest since July 2019. This significant decline was mainly due to easing food prices across categories. Lower inflation supports consumer purchasing power and economic stability. It's a positive indicator for policymakers and the Indian economy.

**69) Correct Answer: C**

The Government of India has fixed 23rd September as Ayurveda Day from 2025. This replaces the earlier variable date based on Dhanteras. The change aims to promote consistency and global recognition of Ayurveda.

**70) Correct Answer: C**

TRAI released a draft manual for rating properties based on digital connectivity in May 2025. This manual is part of the 2024 regulations for promoting robust in-building digital infrastructure. It provides a standardized assessment framework for digital connectivity. The move aims to enhance property value and user experience in the digital era.

**71) Correct Answer: C**

The Union Cabinet approved the sixth semiconductor unit in Uttar Pradesh approved in 2024. This plant, a joint venture between HCL and Foxconn, is near Jewar Airport and aims to boost India's chip self-reliance. With a ₹3,700 crore investment, it will manufacture display driver chips. This facility strengthens India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision in high-tech sectors.

**72) Correct Answer: C**

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India in May 2025. He succeeded Justice Sanjiv Khanna and is only the second Dalit CJI after Justice K.G. Balakrishnan. Justice Gavai's elevation marks a significant step for representation and inclusion in the Indian judiciary.

**73) Correct Answer: C**

The Akashteer air defence system, created by Bharat Electronics Limited, effectively neutralised aerial threats during recent conflict with Pakistan. Developed under a ₹1,982 crore contract, it integrates surveillance and command networks. Akashteer exemplifies India's self-reliance in defence technology and supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

**74) Correct Answer: B**

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will continue to receive Grade A+ contracts after their retirement from T20Is and Tests. The BCCI confirmed their status for 2024–25, recognizing their ongoing importance as ODI players and mentors. This reflects their enduring legacy and value to Indian cricket.

**75) Correct Answer: C**

Anita Anand was appointed Canada's Foreign Minister by Prime Minister Mark Carney in 2025. Her mandate includes resetting relations with India, which had seen strain in previous years. Anand's appointment is seen as significant for facilitating diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

**76) Correct Answer: B**

DRDO developed a high-pressure nanoporous multi-layered polymeric membrane for seawater desalination in 2025. This innovation was tailored for Indian Coast Guard operational needs. It withstands harsh saline conditions and addresses membrane degradation issues. The development boosts India's maritime self-reliance and has potential civilian applications.

**77) Correct Answer: C**

Dr. Ajay Kumar, former Defence Secretary, took charge as UPSC Chairman in May 2025. An IAS officer from the 1985 batch, he has extensive experience in defense and technology. His leadership is expected to further strengthen UPSC's role in civil services selection. This appointment is significant for future administrative reforms.

**78) Correct Answer: C**

India's forest cover has increased steadily since 2011, as per the 2025 SBI report. The report notes a U-shaped relationship with urbanisation, where recent policies have promoted forest recovery. This trend is vital for ecological resilience and supports India's commitments to sustainable development.

**79) Correct Answer: B**

The 21-day operation in Karreguttalu Hills resulted in the elimination of 31 Naxalites with no security force casualties. Conducted along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, it marked the largest anti-Naxal operation to

date. It weakened core Maoist infrastructure. This success is crucial for India's goal of becoming Naxal-free by 2026.

**80) Correct Answer: C**

Qatar signed economic deals worth over \$243.5 billion with the US in May 2025. The centerpiece was Qatar Airways' purchase of 160 Boeing jets, the largest such order ever. The agreements span aviation, defense, and technology. This boosts US jobs and deepens bilateral economic ties.

**81) Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has announced the establishment of its first overseas campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This move aligns with India's National Education Policy 2020 vision of globalising Indian education. The Dubai campus marks a major milestone in IIFT's 62-year history. It highlights India's emergence as a provider of world-class education and strengthens the India-UAE partnership.

**82) Correct Answer: B**

Brazil confirmed its first avian influenza outbreak on a commercial farm. As the world's largest poultry exporter, Brazil's outbreak raises global trade concerns. The country exports chicken meat to around 150 countries. Prompt containment measures were taken, but monitoring continues to safeguard trade and public health.

**83) Correct Answer: C**

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set to represent India during its first biological experiment on the ISS in June 2025. The experiment is part of India's BioE3 policy and a joint effort by ISRO and the Department of Biotechnology. It will study the sustainability of human life in space, focusing on microalgae and cyanobacteria. This milestone advances India's role in space research and international collaboration.

**84) Correct Answer: C**

Sikkim celebrated its 50th Statehood Day on May 16, 2025. PM Modi highlighted Sikkim's progress and cultural richness. Sikkim became the 22nd state of India in 1975 under the leadership of Lhendup Dorjee

Khangarpa. The event reaffirms the state's integration and development within the Indian Union.

**85) Correct Answer: B**

India's projected economic growth rate for 2025 is 6.4%, as per the UN WESP mid-year update. This rate is higher than global and other major economies' projections. The report cites robust domestic demand and public investment as key drivers. India's steady growth contrasts with a global slowdown, underscoring its economic resilience.

**86) Correct Answer: B**

Neeraj Chopra achieved a historic 90.23-metre throw at the Doha Diamond League. He broke his own previous national record and became the first Indian to surpass the 90m mark. This milestone strengthens India's presence in global athletics and inspires aspiring athletes nationwide.

**87) Correct Answer: C**

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya received the 58th Jnanpith Award from President Droupadi Murmu in May 2025. The Jnanpith is one of India's highest literary honors, recognizing outstanding contributions to Indian literature. Rambhadracharya's achievements as a Sanskrit scholar have inspired generations. This reinforces the importance of Indian languages and literary excellence.

**88) Correct Answer: D**

India's forex reserves surged past \$690.6 billion for the week ending May 9, 2025. This record-high reserve strengthens the rupee and enhances RBI's ability to manage currency volatility. Growing reserves reflect strong economic fundamentals and boost investor confidence in India's external sector.

**89) Correct Answer: C**

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed an MoU with Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to support climate-tech startups in India. The partnership offers funding, mentorship, and pilot opportunities, aligning with India's net-zero ambitions.

**90) Correct Answer: B**

UIDAI crossed 150 billion Aadhaar authentication transactions by the end of April 2025, according to a report released by Bank of Baroda. This showcases Aadhaar's critical role in digital service delivery and welfare schemes. The milestone demonstrates the scale of India's digital infrastructure.

**91) Correct Answer: C**

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth will lead the Indian delegation at LIMA 2025. The exhibition is scheduled in Malaysia from May 20 to 24, 2025. India's participation will highlight its defence capabilities and self-reliance. This reinforces India's growing role in regional security and defence innovation.

**92) Correct Answer: B**

Prime Minister Modi announced Rs. 2 lakh ex-gratia for each deceased's family from the PM National Relief Fund. The tragedy in Hyderabad led to loss of lives and injuries. The government's prompt response included financial assistance and condolences. This reflects the Centre's commitment to relief in disaster situations.

**93) Correct Answer: C**

Jagdeep Dhankhar, the 14th Vice President of India, celebrated his 74th birthday on May 18, 2025. He is renowned for his legal expertise and role in enhancing Rajya Sabha productivity. Dhankhar's career spans advocacy, politics, and constitutional leadership. His contributions are significant for parliamentary governance in India.

**94) Correct Answer: C**

The EOS-09 mission failed due to a technical anomaly in the third stage of the PSLV-C61 launch. ISRO confirmed the issue and stated that further analysis would be conducted. The satellite was intended for high-resolution Earth observation. Such missions are vital to India's remote sensing and disaster management.

**95) Correct Answer: C**

DPIIT signed an MoU with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) for a two-year collaboration. The partnership aims to support climate-tech startups through funding and mentorship. This initiative is aligned with India's net-zero ambitions. It promotes innovation and sustainability in clean energy sectors.

**96) Correct Answer: C**

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, aims to modernize Indian agriculture through scientific and sustainable practices. It bridges the gap between research institutions and farmers. The campaign focuses on boosting production, lowering costs, and encouraging crop diversification. This initiative is pivotal for India's goal to become the 'Food Basket of the World.'

**97) Correct Answer: B**

Odisha witnessed the protection of 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles at the Rushikulya river mouth under Operation Olivia in February 2025. Operation Olivia is an annual Indian Coast Guard initiative for turtle conservation. Odisha's coast, especially Gahirmatha Beach, is a major nesting ground for these turtles. This achievement is crucial for biodiversity and India's marine conservation efforts.

**98) Correct Answer: B**

S. Jaishankar's visit from May 19–24, 2025, focused on boosting bilateral ties and strategic partnerships with these key European nations. The agenda covered trade, investment, and coordination on regional and global challenges. Strengthening India-EU relations is vital in the evolving multipolar global order. Such diplomacy enhances India's international influence.

**99) Correct Answer: C**

India's GDP growth for Q4 FY2025 is estimated at 6.9% by ICRA. This is an increase from 6.2% in the previous quarter, despite global uncertainties. The report credits robust rabi crop output and improved consumer sentiment. Sustained GDP growth is crucial for India's economic development and global standing.

**100) Correct Answer: B**

Nvidia announced at Computex 2025 that it will offer NVLink Fusion to other companies. NVLink Fusion enables high-speed data exchange between AI chips, improving custom AI hardware systems. This move strengthens Nvidia's leadership in AI innovation. Such advancements impact the global tech industry and AI development.

**101) Correct Answer: C**

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, inaugurated the Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes in New Delhi. This conference focuses on aligning agricultural research and education with national development goals.

**102) Correct Answer: B**

Ayushman Bharat, covering over 580 million people, was highlighted by PM Modi at the WHA. This scheme provides health insurance to a vast section of India's population. It is a transformative step in making healthcare accessible and affordable. India's model is now recognized globally for its scale and inclusivity.

**103) Correct Answer: C**

CERT-In SAMVAAD 2025 was inaugurated in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. The conference aimed to strengthen India's cybersecurity audit ecosystem. It gathered over 300 delegates from government and industry. Such events are vital for cyber resilience as threats to digital infrastructure grow.

**104) Correct Answer: B**

Dr. Jayant Narlikar, who passed away at 86, was a leading astrophysicist. He is best known for the steady state theory proposed with Fred Hoyle. His contributions brought global recognition to Indian science. Narlikar was also a prominent science communicator and institution builder.

**105) Correct Answer: B**

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the Delhi Games 2025. She stressed the need for better facilities for Delhi athletes. Over 22,000 athletes across 20 sports are participating. The event aims to promote sports and infrastructure development in the capital.

**106) Correct Answer: C**

Mizoram was officially declared the first fully literate state in India in May 2025. The achievement was confirmed after a comprehensive survey and adult education drive under the ULLAS scheme. The state now has a literacy rate of 98.2%. This milestone sets a new benchmark for educational efforts across India.

**107) Correct Answer: C**

The 16th census conducted in May 2025 confirmed 891 Asiatic lions across 11 districts in Gujarat. This census aimed to assess population growth and habitat spread, highlighting the success of Project Lion. The findings support ongoing conservation strategies. Gujarat remains the only habitat for Asiatic lions, making their monitoring globally significant.

**108) Correct Answer: C**

Banu Mushtaq won the International Booker Prize 2025 for her anthology 'Heart Lamp'. The award recognized both Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhasthi. The book spotlights women's lives in patriarchal communities. This is a historic win for Kannada literature and Indian women authors on the global stage.

**109) Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declared the annual Kailash Manasarovar Yatra will begin in June 2025. The MEA organized a computerized draw for 750 pilgrims to ensure transparency. This pilgrimage is a significant religious event for Indians. The government's efforts have improved accessibility and environmental protection.

**110) Correct Answer: C**

The Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark, emphasized during Jaishankar's 2025 visit, centers on sustainable development and climate initiatives. The partnership covers renewable energy, water management, and environmental cooperation. It is India's only such bilateral framework. This partnership strengthens India's global climate leadership.

**111) Correct Answer: B**

The campaign 'One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution' was launched ahead of World Environment Day. It aims to curb plastic pollution and promote sustainable alternatives as part of Mission LiFE. The initiative engages multiple stakeholders nationwide. This is significant for India's environmental management and global sustainability efforts.

**112) Correct Answer: C**

Bengaluru is set to receive approximately 4,500 electric buses under the PM e-Drive Scheme in the current phase. The scheme supports India's shift to sustainable

urban mobility. This large allocation demonstrates Bengaluru's centrality in India's green transit push. Electrification of public transport is crucial for urban pollution reduction and climate goals.

**113) Correct Answer: B**

The operation took place in the dense forests of Abujhmad, Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh. It resulted in the killing of 27 Maoists, including General Secretary Basavaraju. This is the first time such a high-ranking Maoist was neutralised. The event is critical for weakening left-wing extremism in India.

**114) Correct Answer: C**

India is projected to surpass Japan in 2025 to become the world's fourth-largest economy. This reflects India's consistent high growth rates and macroeconomic stability. Surpassing Japan marks a major global economic milestone. It highlights India's rising influence in international economic affairs.

**115) Correct Answer: B**

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is redeveloping Indian railway stations with modern amenities and regionally inspired designs. In May 2025, 103 stations were inaugurated under this scheme. It reflects India's focus on infrastructure and passenger convenience. Revamped railways support economic growth and national integration.

**116) Correct Answer: C**

The energy and semiconductor sectors received significant focus at the Rising North East Investors Summit 2025. PM Modi announced major hydropower, solar, and semiconductor projects for the region. Assam is set to launch the first 'Made in India' semiconductor chip from a Northeast-based plant. This marks a strategic shift for India's technological self-reliance and positions the Northeast as a high-tech hub.

**117) Correct Answer: B**

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aims to redevelop and modernize railway stations across India. PM Modi inaugurated 103 such stations on May 22, 2025. These stations are being made cleaner, more comfortable, and equipped with modern amenities to improve passenger

experience. The scheme reflects India's commitment to world-class infrastructure and regional connectivity.

**118) Correct Answer: C**

India reaffirmed solidarity with Russia in the fight against terrorism during the 'Operation Sindoor' outreach in May 2025. An all-party Indian delegation met Russian officials to strengthen cooperation against terrorism. The event underscored the longstanding India-Russia partnership on security and global anti-terrorism efforts.

**119) Correct Answer: C**

India's GDP growth for Q4 FY25 is projected at 6.8% as per CareEdge Ratings. The report highlights robust consumption, rural demand, and strong performances in sectors like agriculture and construction. Sustained growth is crucial for India's economic stability and global investor confidence.

**120) Correct Answer: B**

The North-East region is being positioned as a gateway to ASEAN through projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project. PM Modi emphasized the region's strategic importance for India's trade and connectivity with Southeast Asia. This enhances India's role in Indo-Pacific economic integration.

**121) Correct Answer: C**

The MAHASAGR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) initiative was unveiled as an evolution of the SAGAR doctrine. It marks a shift from focusing solely on the Indian Ocean Region to a comprehensive global maritime framework. The initiative highlights India's ambition to be a global leader in maritime security, economic inclusion, and sustainable ocean governance.

**122) Correct Answer: C**

Shubman Gill was announced as India's 37th Test captain for the five-match England tour beginning June 20, 2025. He takes over after Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format. Gill's elevation reflects the selection committee's faith in his leadership and batting abilities, crucial for India's overseas ambitions.

**123) Correct Answer: C**

The government ratified an 8.25% interest rate on EPF deposits for FY 2024-25, maintaining the same rate as the previous fiscal. The rate is credited to the accounts of EPFO's 7 crore members. This decision ensures stable returns for salaried employees and reflects continued focus on social security.

**124) Correct Answer: D**

Kerala witnessed the onset of the South West Monsoon on May 24, the earliest since 2009. The India Meteorological Department confirmed the early arrival, which signals the beginning of India's crucial four-month rainy season, essential for agriculture and water resources.

**125) Correct Answer: B**

The United States announced sanctions on Sudan after determining the Sudanese government used chemical weapons during its ongoing conflict in 2024. The sanctions include export restrictions and reflect Washington's commitment to upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention and holding violators accountable.

**126) Correct Answer: B**

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) is India's global initiative advocating mindful consumption and sustainable living. Highlighted at the BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting, it aligns with India's climate responsibility and global sustainability goals.

**127) Correct Answer: C**

Tehran has rejected the US demand for zero uranium enrichment, insisting on its right to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. This issue remains a major hurdle in the negotiations, impacting regional nuclear stability.

**128) Correct Answer: C**

Napoli won the Serie A title for the fourth time, leading to massive celebrations across Naples. The victory marks their second Scudetto in three years, showcasing their resurgence in Italian football.

**129) Correct Answer: C**

'Anora' won the Palme d'Or at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival and subsequently received five Oscars, including Best Picture. Cannes' top prize is globally significant, often propelling films to international acclaim and awards success.

**130) Correct Answer: B**

CBSE has mandated the installation of 'Sugar Boards' in all affiliated schools by July 15, 2025. This move comes amid growing cases of Type 2 diabetes among students due to high sugar consumption. The initiative aims to foster healthy habits early, crucial for India's fight against lifestyle diseases.

**131) Correct Answer: B**

Guyana's top leadership extended unequivocal support for India's fight against terrorism during a meeting with an all-party Indian parliamentary delegation in May 2025. Guyana's leaders also expressed interest in economic collaboration with India. This strengthens India's international partnerships and counters cross-border terrorism.

**132) Correct Answer: C**

On May 26, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated the Dahod plant to manufacture 9,000 HP electric locomotives. The facility aims to boost Indian Railways' freight capacity and enable exports. These locomotives feature regenerative braking, enhancing energy efficiency. This aligns with India's push for world-class and sustainable rail infrastructure.

**133) Correct Answer: C**

NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is India's indigenous satellite navigation system, developed by ISRO. It provided encrypted, precise targeting and coordination for missiles, drones, and troop movements during Operation Sindoor. NavIC's autonomy gives Indian forces strategic independence. This places India among a select few with such advanced capabilities.

**134) Correct Answer: C**

India rose to become the world's fourth-largest economy in May 2025, as recognized by Union Minister Sonowal. This achievement reflects consistent growth since 2014 under PM Modi's leadership. The accomplishment boosts national pride and investor confidence. It further strengthens India's position in global economic rankings.

**135) Correct Answer: B**

On May 26, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated large-scale transmission projects for the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat. The projects include power evacuation

infrastructure and an ultra-supercritical thermal power unit at Tapi. This supports India's energy transition and sustainability. It is a significant step toward clean energy and power sector modernization.

**136) Correct Answer: B**

Gujarat marked 20 years of structured urban transformation with the launch of Urban Development Year 2025 by PM Modi in Gandhinagar. The event highlighted Gujarat's leadership in urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, reinforcing its model for other Indian states.

**137) Correct Answer: B**

The AMCA programme aims to develop India's own fifth-generation fighter jet. Approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, it is a significant step towards self-reliance in defence and will be executed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency in partnership with industry.

**138) Correct Answer: B**

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October 2014 to achieve an open-defecation-free India by 2019. It led to the construction of over 100 million toilets and brought significant health, economic, and social benefits, especially for women and children.

**139) Correct Answer: B**

The Bharat Forecast System, launched is an indigenously developed weather model with 6-km resolution. Developed by IITM Pune, it enhances India's weather prediction capabilities, supporting agriculture and disaster management, and is led by women scientists.

**140) Correct Answer: C**

Paraguay's President Santiago Pena Palacios is set to visit India in June 2025, marking only the second-ever visit by a Paraguayan President. The visit will be focused on strengthening bilateral ties in trade, agriculture, health, and technology, reflecting India's growing engagement with Latin America.

**141) Correct Answer: B**

The Chunniganj to Kanpur Central stretch of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project was inaugurated. This project consists of five new underground stations and aims to boost public transport and ease congestion. The segment was built at a cost of over ₹2,120 crore. Improved urban

mobility is vital for Kanpur's growth and sets an example for similar projects in Indian cities.

**142) Correct Answer: B**

Dr. Sharda Sinha was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Known as 'Bihar Kokila,' she was celebrated for her contributions to Indian folk music, especially Chhath festival songs. Her legacy continues to inspire generations and highlights India's rich cultural heritage.

**143) Correct Answer: C**

Microsoft has partnered with Yotta Data Services to boost AI innovation in India. Together, they will power the Shakti Cloud with AzureAI services. This collaboration is a step towards AI self-reliance and supports India's goal to become an AI-first nation.

**144) Correct Answer: A**

The new passenger terminal at Patna Airport was inaugurated by PM Modi. Built at a cost of ₹1,200 crore, it can handle up to 1 crore passengers per year. This upgrade is significant for Bihar's connectivity and economic development.

**145) Correct Answer: C**

ROR-gamma-t cells have been identified as key to oral tolerance, preventing the immune system from attacking food proteins. This breakthrough could lead to new treatments for food allergies. Such research deepens understanding of immune disorders globally.

**146) Correct Answer: B**

Sikkim marked its golden jubilee with the 'Sikkim@50' celebration. The event highlighted the state's development, sustainability, and cultural preservation.

The Prime Minister addressed the celebrations virtually. Sikkim's journey reflects balanced regional growth and environmental stewardship in India.

**147) Correct Answer: C**

Crisil forecasted a 6.5% GDP growth for India in fiscal 2026. The projection is based on improving domestic consumption and stable inflation. Above-normal monsoon and easing lending rates are also positive factors. This indicates robust economic health and resilience in India's growth trajectory.

**148) Correct Answer: C**

D Gukesh secured a crucial win over Hikaru Nakamura in Norway Chess 2025. This victory ended his winless run in the tournament. It marked a significant moment on his 19th birthday. Gukesh's performance underscores the rise of young Indian talent in global chess.

**149) Correct Answer: B**

The City Gas Distribution (CGD) project was inaugurated by PM Modi in Alipurduar, West Bengal. It aims to provide piped natural gas to households and industries. The project is worth over ₹1,010 crore. This initiative supports India's transition to cleaner energy sources.

**150) Correct Answer: A**

The PRAGATI platform was reviewed by PM Modi for major infrastructure projects. PRAGATI enables proactive governance and timely implementation of projects. Over ₹62,000 crore worth of projects were evaluated in the recent meeting. The initiative is vital for expediting public infrastructure and service delivery in India.

## SECTION 3



# **Detailed Analysis of** **Important Events**



## Economics

### Centre hikes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Sugarcane for 2025-26



#### Why in the News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2025-26 sugar season, raising it from ₹340 per quintal to ₹355 per quintal.

#### About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):

- The Sugarcane Control Order of 1966 establishes the FRP for sugarcane.
- In order to better reflect the state of the economy and enhance the welfare of farmers, it superseded the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) in 2009–10.
- It stands for the lowest amount sugar mills are required to pay growers for sugarcane.
- After consulting with state officials and organizations representing the sugar industry, the central government makes its decision based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

#### Factors Influencing FRP:

1. Cost of production: ₹173 per quintal for 2025-26.
2. Return from alternative crops: Comparison of potential earnings from other crops.
3. Consumer sugar prices: Affects sugar production costs.

4. Sale price of sugar: Influences the FRP.
5. Sugarcane-to-sugar recovery rate: Efficiency of conversion.
6. Income from by-products: Including molasses and bagasse.
7. Profit margins for farmers: Ensures financial viability.

- State Agreed Price (SAP): States can set SAP, often higher than the FRP, based on local conditions.
- Minimum Selling Price (MSP) for sugar was introduced in 2018 to protect farmers, including FRP and conversion costs.

#### Sugarcane Cultivation in India:

- Sugarcane is India's highest production-value crop, key for producing sugar, jaggery, and khan sari.
- Major states: Uttar Pradesh (contributes 50% of total production), Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Sugarcane thrives in a tropical climate (21°C – 27°C), with 75%-150% rainfall. It needs well-drained soil and a cool, dry winter for ripening.
- India has the largest global sugarcane cultivation area after Brazil.
- The ratooning method reduces costs by allowing a second crop from the same roots.

#### 'Kamala' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1' GM Rice



### Why in the News?

India's Agriculture Minister has introduced 'Kamala' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1', the **country's first** genome-edited rice varieties, developed by ICAR. These are also the **world's first genome-edited rice** varieties.

#### About 'Kamala' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1':

- Derived from Samba Mahsuri, Kamala (DRR Dhan 100) was developed by ICAR-IIRR Hyderabad and exhibits early maturity, drought resistance, and a higher yield.
- Based on MTU1010, Pusa DST Rice 1 was created by ICAR-IARI Delhi and enhances resistance to salinity and drought.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICAR-IIRR, and ICAR-IARI were among the participating agencies.
- Site Directed Nuclease 1 (SDN1), a CRISPR-Cas9-based genome editing technique, was used to generate them. There isn't any inserted foreign DNA.
- Under lenient genome-editing regulations, it has been allowed by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBC).

#### Specific Benefits Offered:

- Yield boost:
  - Kamala: +19% over Samba Mahsuri (avg. 5.37 t/ha, max. up to 9 t/ha).
  - Pusa DST Rice 1: +9.6% to +30.4% over MTU1010 under stress conditions.
- Climate resilience:
  - Kamala: Drought tolerance, early maturity.
  - Pusa DST: Salt and drought tolerance for saline/alkaline/coastal soils.
- Water saving: Kamala matures 20 days early → saves 3 irrigations, i.e., 7,500 million m<sup>3</sup> water.
- Emission reduction: Cultivation over 5 million ha may reduce 32,000 tonnes GHG emissions (20% drop).

- Food security support: Improved paddy output enhances India's average yield, critical for 40% of total foodgrain basket.

### Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

#### Why in the News?

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has reported major structural and operational defects in Telangana's Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), citing "irreparable damage" to three key barrages, including Medigadda.



#### About Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

- The largest multi-stage lift irrigation project in the world, KLIP, was opened on June 21, 2019, and is situated on the Godavari River in Telangana.
- The project intends to support industrial use, provide drinking water to Hyderabad, and irrigate 45 lakh acres.
- With 195 TMC coming from Medigadda, 20 TMC from Sripada Yellampalli, and 25 TMC from groundwater, 240 TMC of water would be lifted.
- A 500-kilometer span, a 1,800+-kilometer canal network, 20 reservoirs, seven linkages, 28 packages, and Asia's largest pump house at Ramadugu are all part of the infrastructure.
- Between ₹80,000 crore and ₹1.2 lakh crore is the estimated cost.

#### Issues with the Project

- Flood-related damages resulted from the sinking of Pillar No. 20 of the Medigadda barrier in October 2023.

- Due to subpar design, a dearth of geotechnical investigations, and insufficient safety procedures, the NDSA's April 2024 assessment found structural problems in all three barrages (Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla).
- Damage to the foundation resulted from the barrages being overloaded (10 TMC water stored instead of 2 TMC).
- Even though the project has been called a "man-made disaster," the state still has to pay back ₹16,000 crore in loan and interest payments every year.

### Competition Commission issues norms to assess Predatory Pricing



#### Why in the News?

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has introduced new Cost Regulations 2025 to check if companies are selling below cost to unfairly drive out competitors.

#### About Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- The CCI went into full functioning in May 2009 after being founded on October 14, 2003.
- It seeks to end anti-competitive behavior, stop the misuse of power, and encourage fair competition.
- Based on the recommendations of the Raghavan Committee, it was created under the Competition Act of 2002 and subsequently amended in 2007 to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969.
- The Central Government appoints the Commission's one chairperson and up to six

members, which have their headquarters at Kidwai Nagar (East), New Delhi.

- Members must have worked in fields including public administration, business, economics, law, or finance for at least 15 years.

#### • Jurisdiction of CCI:

- It falls under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is a quasi-judicial statutory body.
- It can respond to institutional or public complaints, start cases on its own initiative, and punish infractions.
- Under the Act, it has the authority to create its own regulations and has jurisdiction over all areas of India.

#### New Cost Definitions under Cost Regulations, 2025:

- Average Variable Cost (AVC), which is determined by dividing total variable expenses by total output, is used to measure cost under the Cost Regulations 2025.
- Variable expenses fluctuate with production and do not include overhead or fixed costs.
- Stakeholder response led the CCI to choose a case-by-case examination, although considering a sector-specific approach.
- The new framework promotes improved response to market changes and is sector-agnostic, providing flexibility for a variety of businesses, including the digital economy.

### What are Digital Banking Units (DBU)?



#### Why in the News?

In October 2022, 75 Digital Banking Units were launched across remote districts to commemorate India's 75th Independence Day, but their momentum has declined from past 2 years.

#### About Digital Banking Units (DBUs):

- DBUs are dedicated, fixed-location banking hubs that use contemporary infrastructure to provide a variety of digital financial services.
- They provide clients with round-the-clock access to banking in a safe, economical, and paperless setting through both self-service and assisted modes of operation.
- Unless otherwise limited, the RBI allows commercial banks with prior experience in digital banking to open DBUs in Tier I to Tier VI cities.
- Local area banks, payment banks, and RRBs are not qualified.
- As part of India's 75th anniversary of independence, 75 DBUs were established in 75 isolated districts in October 2022 with the goal of advancing financial inclusion and bringing banking services closer to residents in rural and semi-urban areas.

#### Services and Features:

- DBUs provide digital services such as UPI QR-based merchant solutions, debit and credit card applications, internet and mobile banking kits, and account opening.
- Consumers can apply online for government-sponsored programs, retail loans, and MSME loans. The entire application and disbursement procedure is managed digitally.
- Each DBU must adhere to RBI regulations, which include lodging in distinct facilities with automated-only cash services, and function independently of the current branches.
- They have video KYC capabilities, document upload systems, cash recyclers, and interactive teller machines.
- Each unit is managed by a Chief Operating Officer (COO), who is a senior bank executive.

#### Benefits Offered:

- DBUs eliminate the need to visit traditional branches by providing a simple, paperless banking experience.
- By increasing access to financial services in underprivileged areas, they promote inclusive banking.
- Both automated and assisted service solutions are advantageous for customers in remote locations.
- DBUs assist banks in cost optimization while enhancing outreach and service delivery.

#### RBI's Transfer of 'Surplus' to the Government



#### Why in the News?

The RBI may transfer a record ₹2.5–₹3 lakh crore surplus for 2024–25 after its recent review of its Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

#### About Surplus Transfer by RBI:

- Legal Basis: Under Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934, the RBI must transfer its net surplus to the central government.
- Tax Exemption: As per Section 48, the RBI is exempt from income tax and direct taxes.
- Timeline: RBI has recently changed its accounting year from June-July to April-May.
- Recent Transfers: In 2023–24, RBI transferred a record ₹2.11 lakh crore; estimates for 2024–25 range between ₹2.5 and 3 lakh crore.
- Reserve Allocation: Some surplus may be set aside for contingency or asset development funds.

- Policy Debate: The government often seeks higher transfers, while the RBI stresses on maintaining financial stability and autonomy.
- Past Disagreements: Tensions have occurred but are usually resolved through mutual agreement.

#### How does the RBI generate its surplus?

- Foreign Investments: The RBI makes money by purchasing foreign treasury bills, government bonds, and deposits with other central banks.
- Domestic Bonds: The Indian government securities (G-secs) that are part of its portfolio generate interest for it.
- Bank Lending: Through repo operations, short-term loans to commercial banks generate revenue.
- Commission Services: To manage borrowings and public debt for the federal and state governments, the RBI collects commissions.
- The primary expenses are dealer fees, bank commissions, employee salaries and pensions, and currency printing.
- What's left over after deducting reserves, provisions, and expenses is known as the net surplus.

#### Potato Cultivation in India



#### Why in the News?

India is likely to become the world's largest potato producer, overtaking China, by 2050, according to experts from the International Potato Center (CIP) based in Peru.

#### Potato Cultivation in India:

- **About:** Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) is known as the "King of Vegetables" and is India's fourth most important food crop after rice, wheat, and maize.
- **Origin:** Introduced to India by Portuguese traders in the 17th century.
- **Geographic Spread:** Grown in 23 states, but 85% of production comes from the Indo-Gangetic plains in North India.
- **Top Producing States:**
  - Uttar Pradesh: ~30% of total output
  - West Bengal: ~23.5%
  - Bihar: ~17%
  - Other contributors: Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
- **Climate Needs:** Potato is a **cool-season crop**.
  - Ideal growth temp: 24°C
  - Ideal tuber formation temp: 20°C
- **Soil Requirements:** Prefers well-drained, fertile soils with moisture retention.
- **Planting Seasons:**
  - Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand: Spring (Jan–Feb), Summer (May)
  - Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar, Bengal: Main crop in October
  - MP, Maharashtra, Karnataka: Both kharif and rabi seasons
- **Seed Management:** Use disease-free, sprouted seeds (30–50g);
- **Popular varieties:** *Kufri Jyoti*, *Kufri Bahar*, *Kufri Pukhraj*, and *Kufri Chandramukhi*.
- **Fertilization & Irrigation:** Apply balanced nutrients, especially **phosphorus** and **potassium**; **drip** irrigation is recommended.
- **Harvesting:** Ready in **90–120 days**, harvested manually or mechanically.

#### Global Comparison and Future Outlook:

- **Global Rank:** India is the second-largest producer after China.
- **Production Volume:** Over 50 million tonnes/year currently; projected to reach 100 million tonnes by 2050 (CIP experts).

- Growth Drivers: Expansion is due to large cultivation area, strong domestic demand, and government support.
- Tuber Crop Potential: Promoting crops like sweet potato can improve nutrition, livelihoods, and climate resilience.

#### Policy measure for Potato Farmers: Operation Greens

- The goal of this 2018 GoI initiative, which was modeled after Operation Flood, is to stabilize the supply and pricing of crops known as tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP).

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is in charge of implementing the program, which had a ₹500 crore starting budget.
- **Objectives:**
  - To shield farmers and consumers from sharp price swings, stabilize the supply and prices of potatoes (as well as those of tomatoes and onions).
  - Improve the infrastructure for potato processing, storage, and logistics to lower post-harvest losses.

## Environment & Diversity

### Changing patterns of Western Disturbances

#### Why in the News?

Heavy rainfall and strong winds disrupted life in Delhi due to a fresh splash of Western Disturbances over North India.



#### What are Western Disturbances?

- Extra-tropical weather phenomena known as Western Disturbances have their origins close to the Mediterranean.
- They transport moisture from the Arabian, Caspian, Black, and Mediterranean seas.
- The subtropical westerly jet stream, a swift air movement in the high atmosphere, contains several disturbances.

- Particularly between December and March, as they pass across the Himalayas, they bring rain, snow, and fog, which results in precipitation in the plains and snowfall at higher elevations.
- They are essential for rabi crops like wheat and are mostly to blame for Northwest India's winter and pre-monsoon rainfall.

#### Recent Changes in its Pattern:

- According to recent data, the frequency of disruptions has increased, especially since late January, and they are now happening outside of the winter season.
- Once uncommon, these disruptions have been seen as early as May, June, and July.
- These disturbances are spreading geographically, impacting more areas of North and Northwest India.

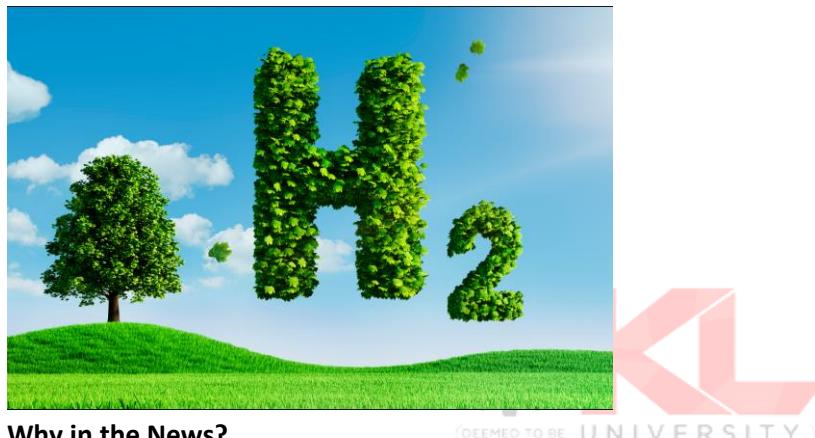
#### • Reasons behind:

- One important reason is the strengthening of the subtropical westerly jet stream, which is probably caused by rising global temperatures.
- The timing of the summer monsoon is being impacted by the jet stream's

delayed retreat, which is causing weather patterns to overlap.

- The Arabian Sea has warmed by 1.2°C to 1.4°C in recent decades, which has increased moisture and intensified rainfall.

## Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCS)



### Why in the News?

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCS) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

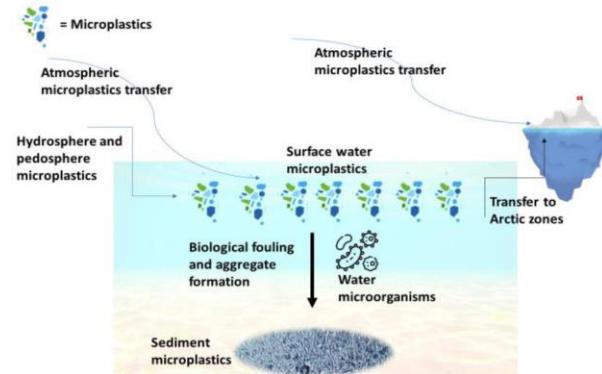
### About Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCS):

- Based on confirmed emissions data, GHCS seeks to verify that hydrogen produced in India satisfies the requirements to be referred to as "green hydrogen."
- The program supports India's ambition to become a global center for green hydrogen exports and improves transparency, credibility, and traceability in the production of hydrogen.
- The nodal body in charge of carrying out this plan is the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Subject to certain conditions, GHCS certification also facilitates manufacturers' access to carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- The plan includes hydrogen generated through biomass conversion or electrolysis with renewable energy.

### Key Features of GHCS:

- Hydrogen will be certified as "green" if its non-biogenic greenhouse gas emissions are  $\leq 2$  kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg of hydrogen, averaged over 12 months.
- The certification process includes four stages:
  - Concept Certificate (project design stage)
  - Facility-Level Certificate (infrastructure readiness)
  - Provisional Certificate (early production data)
  - Final Certificate (verified emissions based on actual production)
- For manufacturers looking to sell hydrogen on the domestic market or get government incentives, only the Final Certificate is required.
- For independent verification, producers are required to choose Accredited Carbon Verification (ACV) organizations that have been approved by the BEE.
- Global legitimacy is ensured by the scheme's alignment with international standards such as ISO 19870:2023.
- Certificates with information on emission intensity and production sources are issued in multiples of 100 kilogram of hydrogen.

## Microplastics disrupting the Ocean's Carbon Cycle



### Why in the News?

A study published in Nature reveals that microplastics have deeply infiltrated the ocean, affecting the planet's biogeochemical and carbon cycles.

**Key Findings of the Study:**

- Throughout contrast to larger plastic fragments (100–5,000 micrometers), which stay close to the surface, microplastics (1–100 micrometers) predominate throughout the ocean's water column, particularly below surface layers.
- Ocean gyres, which are revolving currents that capture and amass waste, have been shown to contain subsurface microplastics up to 100 meters deep.
- Data was collected from 1,885 ocean stations between 2014 and 2024, with an emphasis on the subsurface layer, which is located 50 cm below the surface.
- The majority of the more than 56 polymer types found were buoyant polymers, which are widely used in the production of plastic worldwide.

**Sources identified:**

- One major source of deep-sea microplastics was fishing gear, such as nylon and polyester nets.
- The lengthy breakdown timescales of the plastics studied were highlighted by the fact that many of them had manufacturing dates from the 20th century.
- Polyester makes up the majority of airborne microplastics, with atmospheric deposition contributing between 0.013 and 25 million tons per year.

**About Allochthonous Carbon:**

- Allochthonous carbon is carbon that is brought into an ecosystem from outside sources rather than being created there.
- Because they originate from human activities on land, plastics are a significant source of allochthonous carbon in seas.
- Microplastics change the natural carbon ratios in ocean layers and add quantifiable carbon mass to marine systems.

- By altering the flow and makeup of particulate organic carbon (POC), this distorts the marine carbon pump.

**Impacts:**

- Because plastic-derived carbon doesn't contain radiocarbon, marine POC samples can appear to be about 420 years older.
- It interferes with the decomposition of organic materials, microbial activity, and nutrient cycling processes like nitrification and denitrification.
- Plastic-C is consumed by marine bacteria, which changes biological processes at the base of ecosystems and impacts food chains.

**Centre releases Draft Climate Finance Taxonomy Framework****Why in the News?**

To channel investments into clean-energy projects and climate-resilient infrastructure, the Finance Ministry has released a draft document titled 'Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy'.

**What is a Climate Finance Taxonomy?**

- A CFT is a classification scheme that establishes which economic endeavors are considered sustainable or climate-friendly ventures.
- It assists legislators, financial institutions, and investors in allocating capital to climate-resilient and low-emission initiatives.

- It serves as a defense against "green-washing," the practice of mislabeling non-sustainable projects as green.
- It encourages the mobilization of funds required to meet Net Zero targets and other global climate goals.
- It provides a methodical framework for making decisions to guarantee that investments have quantifiable positive effects on the environment.

#### About India's Draft 'Climate Taxonomy' (May 2025)

- The Finance Ministry released the draft 'Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy' to help meet India's Net Zero by 2070 goal while maintaining energy access.
- It categorizes activities as:
  - Climate Supportive Activities: Those that reduce GHG emissions, enable adaptation, or promote clean tech R&D.
  - Climate Transition Activities: Those that encourage gradual progress, especially in hard-to-abate sectors like steel, iron, and cement.
- It aligns with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.
- It includes key sectors such as power, mobility, buildings, agriculture, food, and water security.
- The framework was first announced in the Union Budget 2025.

#### Global Context and Negotiation Relevance:

- In international fora such as the Conference of Parties (COP), a standardized taxonomy is essential for settling disagreements over climate finance pledges.
- While rich governments frequently include private investments in their financial tallies, developing countries—like India—promote grants and technological transfers.
- Developed nations offered \$300 billion a year by 2035 at the Baku Climate Conference, significantly less than the \$1.35 trillion needed.

- In order to foster openness, legitimacy, and confidence in global climate financing, India's taxonomy attempts to establish a precise standard for financial flows associated with climate change.

#### 20th Session of UN Forum on Forests (UNFF20)



#### Why in the News?

India participated in the 20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF20) held at the UN Headquarters, New York, reaffirming its commitment to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017–2030.

#### About United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):

- UNFF was established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- It aims to promote sustainable forest management and global forest policy coordination.
- It holds annual sessions at UN Headquarters:
  - Technical discussions in odd years
  - Policy-level dialogues in even years
- Its membership is universal, comprising all UN members as well as pertinent entities dealing with forests.
- Being a founding member, India actively influences forest policy.
- The foundation for accomplishing the global forest goals by 2030 is the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).

- High-level political support for forest protection was obtained in the 19th UNFF Declaration.

#### Key Highlights of UNFF20:

- Under the UNSPF (2017–2030), India reiterated its commitment to Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs).
- It stated that 25.17% of its land was now covered by forests and trees.
- The Green India Mission planted 1.55 lakh hectares of forest, the Aravalli Green Wall increased mangrove cover by 7.86%, and the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign planted 1.4 billion saplings.
- In order to promote big cat conservation, India extended an invitation to nations to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- It called for backing for the results of the Dehradun (2023)-hosted Country-Led Initiative (CLI) on forest fire management.
- India presented research on carbon sequestration, biodiversity, water services, and instruments such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) and System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) at a high-level panel.
- It emphasized how important it is for forest policy to mainstream ecological valuation.



#### India eases Solar Panel Efficiency Norms for Off-Grid Rural Projects



#### Why in the News?

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has lowered the efficiency requirement for off-grid solar panels to make rural electrification easier and more affordable.

#### About India's Off-Grid Solar Programme:

- **About:** The programme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to provide solar energy access in regions without reliable grid electricity.
- **Mission Framework:** Implemented under the *National Solar Mission (2010)*, it aimed to install 2,000 megawatt-peak (MW-P) of off-grid and decentralised systems by 2022.
- **Phased Implementation:**
  1. Phase I (2010–2014) targeted 200 MW-P capacity.
  2. Phase II (2014–2017) expanded to 500 MW-P with a focus on lighting, pumps, and study lamps.
  3. Phase III (2018–2021) emphasised solar streetlights, study lamps, and solar plants for public institutions.
- **Restructuring:** Solar pumps were moved to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan scheme (PM-KUSUM), and solar home lights were integrated into the Saubhagya Scheme.
- **Key Applications:** Included solar home lighting systems, streetlights, lanterns, study lamps, power packs, and water pumps for irrigation and drinking.

#### India's Progress in Off-Grid Solar Energy:

- **Installed Capacity:** As of April 2025, off-grid systems accounted for 4.98 gigawatts of India's 107.95 gigawatt total solar capacity.
- **Capacity Growth:** Solar installations increased from 172.45 gigawatts to 216.86 gigawatts between 2016 and 2024.
- **Recent Trends:** As solar appliances became more reasonably priced in underdeveloped and distant areas, usage increased in 2024.

- Impact: In places where grid growth is constrained by infrastructure, cost, or terrain, the program has proved essential for electrification.

## What is Operation Olivia?



### Why in the News?

As of February 2025, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) protected a record 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles during their mass nesting at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha.

#### About Operation Olivia:

- Launch: Initiated in the early 1980s, Operation Olivia is an annual conservation mission of the Indian Coast Guard.
- Its primary goal is to safeguard Olive Ridley turtles from November to May, when they are nesting.
- The operation's primary locations are the coast of Odisha, particularly the mouths of the Devi and Rushikulya rivers and Gahirmatha Beach.
- Turtle Nesting Scale: Every year, more than 8 lakh turtles come to these locations to lay their eggs.
- The Coast Guard has carried out 1,768 aircraft missions and more than 5,387 surface patrols as part of its surveillance efforts.
- Community Involvement: To help turtles avoid fishing nets, fishermen are urged to employ Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

#### About Olive Ridley Turtles:

- Their olive-green shell gives them their name.

- Diet: Although they are omnivores, their primary food sources include mollusks, crabs, and jellyfish.
- Nesting Behavior: Well-known for the Arribada phenomena, in which hundreds of females lay their eggs on the beach at once.
- Habitat Range: Found in the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific oceans' warm waters.
- Major Nesting Sites in India:**
  - Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, Odisha (largest site)
  - Devi River mouth (discovered in 1981)
  - Rushikulya River mouth (discovered in 1994)
- Protection Status:**
  - IUCN Red List: Listed as Vulnerable.
  - CITES: Included in Appendix I, banning international trade.
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Listed under Schedule I, offering the highest legal protection in India.

## International Day for Biological Diversity, 2025



### Why in the News?

India has celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 in Udaipur.

#### About International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB):

- Annual Observance: The IDB is celebrated every year on May 22 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation.
- Significance: The date marks the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992.

- 2025 Theme: 'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development'.
- Key Highlights: India showcased its global leadership through:
  - The revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024–2030);
  - 89 Ramsar sites covering 1.35 million hectares;
  - 49 Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

#### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

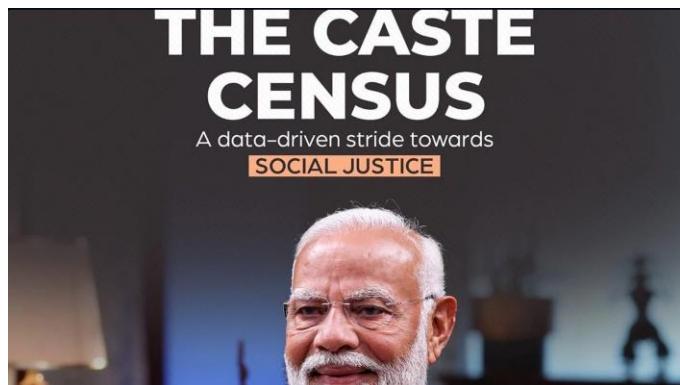
- Adoption: On December 29, 1993, the CBD went into effect after being approved at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- Membership: 196 nations have ratified the treaty, and its secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada. Although they signed it, the USA did not ratify it.
- India and CBD:
  - India is regarded as a leader among developing nations in biodiversity conservation and policy implementation, having joined the CBD on February 18, 1994.



- In 2012, India demonstrated its dedication and ability to manage biodiversity by hosting the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP-11) in Hyderabad's central business district.
- **Core Objectives:**
  - Conservation of biodiversity
  - Sustainable use of its components
  - Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources
- **Functioning:**
  - The CBD is governed by the Conference of the Parties (COP), which meets every 2 years.
  - Latest Development (COP16, 2024): Held in Cali, Colombia, COP16 introduced a benefit-sharing mechanism for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) to ensure rewards for local communities.
- **Related Protocols:**
  - Cartagena Protocol (2000): Regulates cross-border movement of living modified organisms (LMOs); effective from 2003.
  - Nagoya Protocol (2010): Ensures fair access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources.

## Governance

#### Govt. approves 'Caste Census'



#### Why in the News?

In a landmark move, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) has approved the inclusion of caste

enumeration in the 2025 population census for the first time since India's independence.

#### What is Caste Census?

- The practice of documenting people's caste identities during a national census is known as a caste census.
- Its goal is to collect information on the socioeconomic standing and distribution of various caste groups in order to support the development of policies pertaining to social justice, welfare, and affirmative action in India.
- In the nation's social, political, and economic life, caste is a major factor.
- **History of Caste Census:**

- Caste enumeration was a component of the decennial census conducted in British India (1881–1931) for administrative reasons.
- In order to foster national unity and prevent social conflicts, the Indian government, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, abolished caste enumeration in 1951.
- Caste data collection at the state level became fragmented as a result of the 1961 Directive, which permitted states to gather their own statistics on Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- 1980 Mandal Commission: The commission fueled the desire for caste-based data by recommending a 27% reservation for OBCs in government positions. The adoption of such policies was controversial due to the absence of national caste data.
- 2011 Census of Socioeconomic Castes (SECC): Although caste data was gathered by the SECC, it was not formally included in the census, and its results were not made public, leading to criticism for its lack of application and openness.

#### Implications of Caste Census:

- Political: It can guarantee more precisely targeted social programs and enhance representation for underrepresented groups.
- Social: Reveals intersectional inequities, assisting in the identification of service gaps in areas such as social protection, healthcare, and education.
- Policy: Supports the development of reservation laws and the distribution of funds to reduce poverty.
- Opposition and Concerns: Some are concerned that it would deepen caste-based tensions, especially between political groupings and upper-caste groups.

- election and Governance: Parties can better address the needs of their communities by using accurate data to inform their election plans.
- Legal and Administrative Impact: In order to ensure that data is used efficiently and without perpetuating caste-based inequalities, the 2025 caste enumeration presents questions about data collection, classification, and use.

#### Justice B.R. Gavai takes charge as 52nd CJI



#### Why in the News?

Justice B.R. Gavai has been sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI).

#### About the Chief Justice of India:

- The CJI is the head of the Supreme Court and the highest-ranking judicial officer in the country.
- As the “Master of the Roster,” the CJI has the exclusive authority to:
  - Constitute benches
  - Allocate cases among judges
  - Decide the schedule of hearings
- The CJI leads the judicial and administrative functions of the Supreme Court.
  - Holds administrative control as recognised in State of Rajasthan v. Prakash Chand (1997).
- The CJI is referred to as “first among equals” among Supreme Court judges.

#### Powers and functions of the CJI:

- **Judicial Functions:**
  - Assigns judges to the Constitution Benches. (Article 145)

- Handles interpretation of important legal and constitutional matters. (Article 145)
- Exercises judicial leadership by steering jurisprudential direction. (Article 145)
- Exercises judicial authority in matters of national significance. (Article 136)
- Protects fundamental rights through the Supreme Court's original and appellate jurisdiction. (Article 32)

- **Administrative Functions:**

- Maintains court roster and case listing. (Derived from judicial precedent and administrative conventions)
- Supervises court staff and administration. (Based on administrative authority of the CJI)
- Ensures smooth functioning of the Supreme Court. (Supreme Court Rules, 2013)
- Holds disciplinary authority over subordinate judicial officers. (Administrative powers acknowledged in precedents)
- Engages in administration of justice at the highest level. (Overarching responsibility under Article 145)

- **Advisory Function:**

- Provides advisory input when consulted by the President. (Article 143)

#### Appointment and Terms:

- Article 124 of the Constitution empowers the President of India to appoint the CJI.
- Traditionally, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed.
- Exceptions to this practice:
  - 1973: Justice A.N. Ray appointed over 3 senior judges.
  - 1977: Justice M.H. Beg appointed over Justice H.R. Khanna.
- **Qualifications as outlined in Article 124(3):**
  - Must be a citizen of India, and:

- Served at least five years as a High Court judge, or
- Practised at least ten years as a High Court advocate, or
- Deemed a distinguished jurist by the President.

#### Selection Procedure:

- Governed by the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Supreme Court Judges.
- The Union Law Minister seeks the outgoing CJI's recommendation.
- The recommendation is processed as follows:
  - Sent to the Prime Minister by the Law Ministry.
  - Prime Minister advises the President.
  - President of India appoints the new CJI.
- No specific timeline is defined — the recommendation must be made at the "appropriate time".

#### Tenure and Removal:

- CJI serves until the age of 65 years.
- Can only be removed through removal under Article 124(4):
  - Requires approval by both Houses of Parliament.
  - Must be supported by:
    - A majority of total membership, and
    - A two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
  - Grounds for removal: Proven misbehavior or incapacity.

#### Article 143 of the Indian Constitution



### Why in the News?

The Tamil Nadu CM has criticised the Presidential Reference under Article 143 as a “desperate attempt” to weaken State powers, following a Supreme Court ruling that set timelines for Governors and the President to act on State Bills.

### Recent Invocation:

- The Presidential Reference asked whether the Supreme Court could impose timelines on:
  - Governors under Article 200 (assent to State Bills)
  - The President under Article 201 (Bills reserved for Presidential assent)

### What is Article 143 of the Indian Constitution?

- Article 143 empowers the President of India to seek the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact that is-
  - of public importance
  - Likely to arise or has already arisen
- This provision defines the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction, exclusive to the President.
- **Sub-clauses and Legal Operation:**
  - Article 143(1): The President may refer any matter to the Supreme Court for its opinion. In the first case, the Supreme Court may tender or may refuse to tender its opinion to the president.
  - Article 143(2): Allows the President to refer disputes arising from pre- Constitution agreements,

including state-related matters, for the Supreme Court's opinion. The Supreme Court must tender its opinion to the President.

- **Nature of the Reference:** The Supreme Court's opinion is advisory and NOT legally binding since it is NOT a judicial pronouncement.
- **President's Response:** It is NOT binding on the President; he/she may follow or may not follow the opinion. However, it facilitates the government to have an authoritative legal opinion.
- **Types of Questions Referred:** Article 143(1) allows the President to refer **questions of law or fact**.
  1. Legal questions: Constitutional interpretation, rights, and executive powers.
  2. Factual questions: The 1993 Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid reference asked whether a temple existed at the disputed site.
  - **Judicial Interpretation:** The Supreme Court has clarified that Article 143 is broad in scope and not limited to questions that have arisen; potential or likely questions can also be referred.

### Executive's Control of Presidential Reference:

- Although Article 143 vests the power in the President, the real decision to refer is taken by the Union Council of Ministers under Article 74(1).
- Article 74(2) bars the Court from inquiring whether such advice was given.

## History

### Piprahwa Relics of Buddha



#### Why in the News?

The Union Culture Ministry has successfully halted the auction of the sacred 'Piprahwa' Buddhist relics by Hong Kong.



#### About the Piprahwa Relics:

- English engineer William Claxton Peppe found the Piprahwa remains in 1898 while excavating in the Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, close to the Nepali border.
- The location is thought to be the ancient Shakya republic's capital, Kapilavastu, where Prince Siddhartha (later the Buddha) resided before his renunciation.
- Peppe discovered a sizable stone coffer buried beneath a stupa that he had excavated.
- The coffer included a sandstone coffer, many gold ornaments and gemstones, caskets of soapstone and crystal, and bone fragments that were thought to be the cremated remains of Buddha.
- Under the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, the relics were claimed by the British Crown.
- About 1,800 pearls, rubies, topaz, sapphires, and gold sheets made up the bulk of the objects that were moved to the Indian Museum in Kolkata.

#### Stupas with Buddha's Relics:

- Following the Buddha's death (Mahaparinirvana), his cremated remains were distributed across eight kingdoms under the direction of a Brahmin named Drona.

- In order to preserve their portion of the relics, each recipient constructed a stupa, establishing significant pilgrimage destinations and the first places of worship for Buddhists.
- Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Pava, Kushinagar, and Pippalivana were the locations of the nine stupas.
- Relics from these stupas were dispersed to thousands of new stupas throughout the empire by Emperor Ashoka in the third century BCE.
- Because it is thought to have remained intact and still contain the original relics, the stupa at Ramagrama is special.
- A hemispherical mound (anda), a square railing (harmika), a central pillar (yashti) with umbrellas (chakra), and a circumambulatory road (pradakshinapatha) were all common features of early Buddhist stupas.

### 50 years of Sikkim's integration with India



#### Why in the News?

May 16 is observed annually as Sikkim Day, marking the historic occasion in 1975 when the Kingdom of Sikkim formally became a state of India.

#### About the Kingdom of Sikkim

- Foundation: In 1642, three Tibetan lamas anointed Phuntsong Namgyal as the first Chogyal (monarch), establishing the Kingdom of Sikkim.
- For 333 years, the Namgyal dynasty governed Sikkim, upholding a Buddhist monarchy until 1975.

- By the Treaty of Tumlong (1861), Sikkim became a protectorate of the British, with the Chogyals maintaining internal control while the British took care of external matters.
- Other significant treaties that shaped Sikkim's status were the Lhasa Convention (1904), the Calcutta Convention (1890), and the Treaty of Titaliya (1817), which established boundaries and reaffirmed British dominance.

#### How did Sikkim join India?

- Post-1947 Status: Because of its special British treaty status, Sikkim did not join India like other princely states after India gained its independence.
- Nehru's Strategy: Jawaharlal Nehru chose a Standstill Agreement to maintain the status quo, despite Sardar Patel and B.N. Rau's desire for Sikkim to join.
- The Indo-Sikkim Treaty of 1950 established Sikkim as a protectorate of India, with India

handling communications, foreign policy, and defense.

- Sikkim National Congress's role: Under Kazi Dorji's leadership, the SNC emerged as the main party in favor of democracy and mergers.
- 1973 Agreement: Following massive demonstrations, the Chogyal, the Indian government, and the Sikkimese parties formed a tripartite agreement.
- Democratic Transition: After elections in 1974, the monarch's authority was curtailed by a new constitution.
- 1975 Referendum: More than 97% of voters in April 1975 favored doing away with the monarchy and joining India.
- Merger with India: Sikkim became the 22nd state of India in May 1975 after the 36th Constitutional Amendment was approved. In order to give the state of Sikkim particular provisions, it added Article 371F.

## International Relations

### UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed



#### Why in the News?

India and the United Kingdom signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), ending nearly 3 years of negotiations, with an aim to boost trade and investment between the two nations.

#### What is Free Trade Agreement (FTA)?

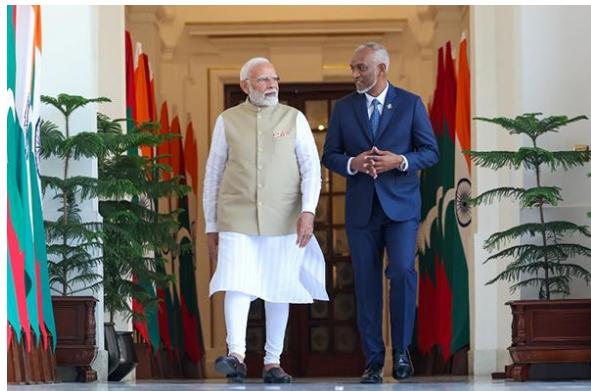
- An FTA is an agreement between two or more nations to lower or do away with non-tariff trade obstacles and customs duties.
- Making it simpler and more affordable for companies to import and export goods and services is the goal in order to encourage trade.
- Intellectual property rights, investments, goods, and services can all be covered under free trade agreements.
- FTAs help customers by lowering trade barriers and providing a greater selection of goods at reduced costs.
- By enabling trade between nations, free trade agreements (FTAs) significantly contribute to economic growth and employment creation.
- **India's FTAs:**
  - India has signed FTAs with 16 countries or regional blocs as of May 2025.

- These FTAs cover major partners such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Australia, UAE, Mauritius, ASEAN (10 countries), and EFTA (4 countries).

#### Key terms of the UK-India FTA:

- Trade Growth: Expected to boost bilateral trade by £25.5 billion annually by 2040.
- Whisky and Gin Tariffs: Tariffs reduced from 150% to 75%, eventually to 40% over 10 years.
- Automobile Tariffs: India to reduce automotive tariffs from over 100% to 10%.
- Other Goods: Tariffs reduced on cosmetics, aerospace, medical devices, chocolate, and more.
- Services and Work Permits: Increased quotas for Indian workers in IT and healthcare, with 100 new visas annually for professionals.
- Carbon Tax: Dispute over UK's proposed carbon tax on metal imports.
- Supply Chain Resilience: FTA aims to reduce reliance on China and improve supply chain security.

#### India rolls over \$50M Treasury Bill to help Maldives



#### Why in the News?

India extended critical financial assistance to the Maldives by rolling over a \$50 million Treasury Bill,

continuing its support under a government-to-government arrangement since 2019.

#### About Treasury Bill:

- Through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Government of India issues T-Bills, which are short-term debt instruments.
- They are used to raise short-term money and are a type of Government Securities (G-Secs).
- Since they are zero-coupon securities, there are no recurring interest payments associated with them.
- Rather, they are issued at a discount and, when they mature, are redeemed at face value.
- In 1917, they made their debut in India.
- For investors looking for short-term safety and liquidity, they are perfect.

#### Features of the T-Bills:

- There are three different maturity durations available: 91, 182, and 364 days.
- Provided at a Reduced Price: The price of T-Bills is less than their face value. The difference between the purchase price and face value is known as the return, or yield.
- The minimum investment is ₹25,000 and is then multiplied by ₹25,000.
- No-Coupon Nature: Throughout the duration, there are no interest payments. Investors profit from the lower purchasing price.
- Almost risk-free investment because it is supported by the Indian government.
- High Liquidity: T-Bills are quickly convertible into cash because of their short lifespan.
- Auction Mechanism: Sold in RBI auctions with both competitive and non-competitive bidding.
- Gains That Are Taxable: Returns are taxable as short-term capital gains.
- Sensitive to Inflation: Growing inflation may have an effect on fixed returns, lowering real returns.

## Polity

### Digital Access a Fundamental Right under Right to Life and Liberty: Supreme Court



#### Why in the News?

The Supreme Court has ruled that inclusive and meaningful Digital Access to e-governance and welfare systems is a part of the Fundamental Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

#### Key Highlights of the Judgment:

- **Inclusive Digital Access:** On April 30, 2025, the Court decided that, in accordance with Article 21, access to welfare and e-governance systems is a fundamental right, necessitating inclusive digital ecosystems, particularly for marginalized people.
- **Emphasis on KYC Procedures:** It released 20 guidelines to improve the accessibility of digital KYC procedures for visually impaired people and survivors of acid attacks.
- **Digital Divide:** It emphasized the necessity of equal access to digital platforms for opportunities and necessary services, acknowledging the digital divide as a constitutional concern.

#### About Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and its Scope:

- Article 21 reads: "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

- Initially focused on protecting life from arbitrary state action, it has been expanded to include living with dignity.

#### Key Judicial Expansions:

- **Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India (1978):** Right to live with dignity, requiring a fair, just, and reasonable procedure.
- **Sunil Batra vs. Delhi Administration (1978):** Right to live a healthy life and preserve cultural heritage.
- **Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs. Union of India (1984):** Linking Article 21 with the Directive Principles of State Policy, ensuring abolition of forced labour.
- **Subramaniam Swamy vs. Union of India (2016):** Recognized right to reputation as part of Article 21.
- **Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985):** Recognized right to livelihood as part of Article 21.
- **Aruna Shanbaug case (2011):** Recognized the right to die with dignity as part of Article 21.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017):** Right to privacy recognized as an essential part of Article 21.

#### Other Judgments Related to Digital Empowerment

- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978):** Laid the foundation for inclusive digital rights, stating that procedures restricting fundamental rights must be fair, just, and reasonable.
- **Faheema Shirin RK v. State of Kerala (2019):** Recognized right to access the internet as part of Article 21 and Article 21A (Right to Education). Denying students internet access in hostels was held unconstitutional.

- Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020): SC held that Article 19(1)(a) protects the freedom of speech and expression via the internet, and Article 19(1)(g) safeguards the right to trade online. Restrictions on these rights must meet the tests of reasonableness and proportionality.

### "China Plus One" Strategy



#### Why in the News?

Japanese companies, along with other global players, are increasingly turning to India under the China Plus One strategy, aiming to diversify supply chains and reduce overdependence on China.

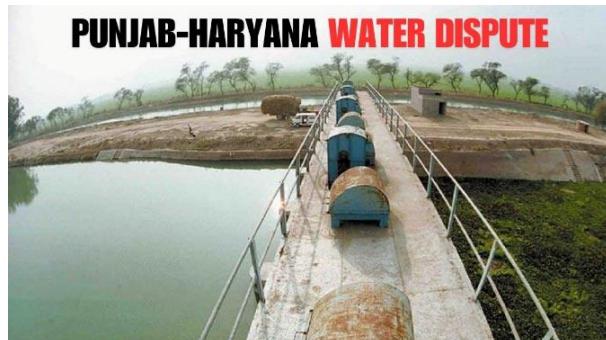
#### About China Plus One Strategy:

- By expanding the manufacturing or sourcing base to another nation, this global business model was developed in 2013 with the goal of lessening reliance on China.
- It developed as a result of worries about trade disputes, geopolitical threats, and China's unpredictable regulations.
- Following the US-China trade war, China's Zero-Covid policy, and rising labor and compliance expenses, the concept gained traction.
- By doing business in China and one or more other nations, it hopes to build robust and varied supply chains.
- Taiwan, Mexico, and Vietnam have benefited early on in industries including electronics, transportation, and equipment.

#### Benefits for India:

- India is a desirable location for diversification because it provides a sizable market, highly skilled personnel, and cost advantages.
- Manufacturing relocation is facilitated by expanding industrial corridors and digital infrastructure, and government initiatives like PLI and Made in India assist the objectives of China Plus One.
- **Challenges:**
  - India has to deal with legislative constraints, inefficient logistics, and limited integration into global value chains.
  - Its full potential is hampered by past restrictive trade policies and non-participation in trade accords such as RCEP.
  - India needs to increase trade facilitation, ease of doing business, and labor reforms in order to compete with countries like Vietnam or Mexico.

### Water Sharing Dispute between Punjab and Haryana



#### Why in the News?

Tensions escalated between Punjab and Haryana after the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) decided to release an extra 4,500 cusecs of water from the Bhakra dam to Haryana, sparking political and legal opposition from Punjab.

#### About the Punjab-Haryana Water Dispute:

- When Haryana was formed from Punjab in 1966, it was promised a portion of the river flows from

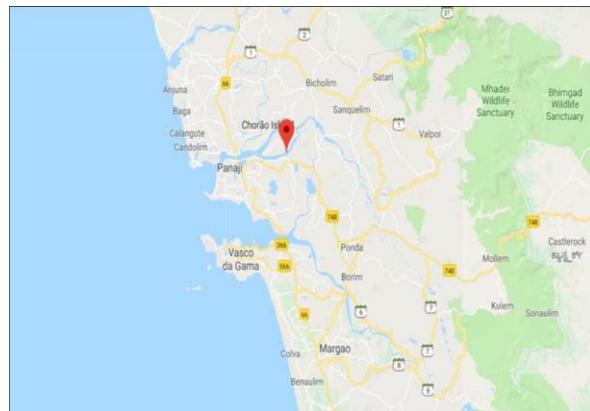
the Ravi and Beas rivers. This is when the controversy began.

- Haryana's share was supposed to be delivered by the Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, but Punjab's opposition has kept it unfinished.
- Punjab and Haryana are currently at odds over the Bhakra dam's increased water flow, which is overseen by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).
- Punjab objected to the BBMB's order on April 30, 2025, to provide 8,500 cusecs of water to Haryana for drinking purposes, arguing that Haryana had already taken out 104% of its yearly allotment.
- Poor snowfall in the Himalayas has resulted in low water levels in the Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dams.
- Punjab contends that the BBMB's decision to not release the flood gates of the Nangal dam is unilateral.

#### Inter-State Water Dispute Resolution in India:

- The Constitution's Article 262 gives Parliament the authority to enact laws pertaining to interstate river water conflicts and prohibits the courts from becoming involved.
- Although the River Boards Act of 1956 permits the establishment of boards for the administration of interstate rivers, no such board has ever been established.
- **Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956** provides for:
  - Conciliation by the Centre among aggrieved states.
  - Tribunal formation if conciliation fails.
- The **2002 amendment** mandates:
  - Formation of a tribunal within 1 year.
  - Tribunal decision within 3 years.
- Supreme Court cannot question the award of a tribunal but can examine procedural issues.
- Other prominent disputes include Krishna, Cauvery, and the Satluj Yamuna Link canal disputes.

#### Mahadayi Water Dispute



#### Why in the News?

A protest has erupted in Goa after a scientific paper on water availability and diversion in the Mahadayi basin reignited its long-standing dispute with Karnataka.

#### About the Mahadayi River:

- Origin: The Mahadayi River (Mhadei in Goa) originates in Bhimgad, Karnataka, in the Western Ghats.
- Length and Flow: It flows 81 km, passing through Karnataka (35 km), Goa (45 km), and Maharashtra (1 km) before reaching the Arabian Sea.
- Basin Area: Covers 2,032 sq km—78% in Goa, 18% in Karnataka, and 4% in Maharashtra.
- Significance: Forms the Mandovi River, essential for drinking water, agriculture, and navigation in Goa.
- Tributaries: Kalasa Nala, Surla Nala, Haltar Nala, Poti Nala, Mahadayi Nala, Pansheer Nala, Bail Nala, Andher Nala and many more. It has a catchment area of 2032 sq.km.
- Topography: Elevation ranges between < 0m and > 980m w.r.t Mean Sea Level, slope of the catchment varies up to 150%. Very high slope we observed in the Ghats (Braganza Ghats).
- Waterfalls: Variations in the terrain has led to formation of various water falls such as the Doodhsagar falls, Vajra poha falls etc.
- Ecology: Supports rich biodiversity, including the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

- Mineral Ores found: Iron, limestone, bauxite, quartz, limestone, sand, clay, lime shell, Manganese, Asbestos, Mica, Lead, Cadmium.

#### Mahadayi Water Dispute:

- Karnataka's Project: Proposed the Kalasa-Banduri Nala to divert water to the Malaprabha basin.
- Tribunal Setup: The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (2010) addressed disagreements.
- 2018 Verdict:
  - Karnataka: 13.42 tmcft (1.72 from Kalasa, 2.18 from Bhandura).
  - Goa: 24 tmcft (plus 9.395 tmcft for existing use).
  - Maharashtra: 1.33 tmcft.
- Concerns: Goa feared impacts on Mandovi navigation; the tribunal cited tidal flow ensures stability.
- Legal Status: Both states have challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court.

#### Controversy Over CSIR-NIO Report:

- Study Findings: Claimed Karnataka's diversions would have minimal impact on Goa's water or estuarine navigation.
- Institutions: Report authored by CSIR-NIO (Goa) and INCOIS (Hyderabad).
- Recommendations: Suggested check dams and a Tillari-style agreement for shared water use and ecological balance.

#### Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)



#### Why in the News?

The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) status of a notable British-Indian academic has been **cancelled** due to involvement in anti-India activities.

#### About Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI):

- Launch: Introduced in August 2005 to give Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) a long-term connection to India.
- Eligibility: Open to those who were citizens of India on/after January 26, 1950, or eligible for Indian citizenship on that date.
- Nature: OCI is not full citizenship but offers lifelong visa and residency benefits.
- Benefits: Includes a multiple-entry, lifelong visa and exemption from police registration.
- Administered by: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Global Numbers (2023): Over 45 lakh OCI holders from 129 countries — top sources include the USA (16.8 lakh), UK (9.34 lakh), Australia (4.94 lakh), and Canada (4.18 lakh).

#### Who are the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)?

- The PIO category was abolished in 2015 and merged with the OCI category. However, existing PIO cards are valid till December 31, 2023.
- PIO referred to a:
  - Foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) who at any time held an Indian passport, or
  - Who or either of their parents/grandparents/great grandparents was born and permanently resided in India as defined in Government of India Act, 1935, or
  - Who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO.

#### Rules, Amendments & Privileges:

- 2021 Rule Change: Special permission required for visiting restricted areas,

conducting research, journalism, or religious work.

- FEMA Status: Treated as foreign nationals under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (2003).
- Earlier Privileges:
  - 2005: Life-long visa, no FRRO (Foreigners Registration Office) registration
  - 2007: Parity with NRIs for adoption, domestic airfare
  - 2009: Parity for monument entry and access to regulated professions

#### Limitations and Ineligibility:

- Not Eligible:
  - Individuals with parents/grandparents from Pakistan or Bangladesh
  - Foreign military personnel, active or retired
- Spouse Clause: Foreign spouse eligible if legally married for at least two years.
- No Political Rights: OCI holders cannot vote, contest elections, hold constitutional posts (President, Vice President, or Supreme Court/High Court Judge), or work in Indian government services.

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

### Kosmos 482 Mission



#### Why in the News?

A 500-kg piece of a Soviet spacecraft, part of the Kosmos 482 mission launched in 1972, plunges to Earth after 53 years stuck in orbit.

#### About Kosmos 482 Mission:

- Kosmos 482 was a Soviet space probe launched on March 31, 1972 as part of the Venera Program, aimed at exploring Venus.
- It was launched just four days after its twin mission, Venera 8, which successfully landed on Venus 117 days later.
- The mission's goal was to:
  - Study Venus's atmosphere and surface

- Demonstrate technological and scientific superiority during the Cold War
- Kosmos 482 was equipped with instruments to measure:
  - Temperature, pressure, and wind speed
  - Atmospheric gases and rock composition
  - Capable of transmitting data back to Earth
- Venus was a target due to:
  - Speculation about life beneath its thick clouds
  - Its strategic importance in space exploration rivalry
- Under the broader Venera Program (1961–1984):
  - 28 missions were launched toward Venus
  - 13 probes entered the atmosphere
  - 10 probes landed, but could only function for 23 minutes to 2 hours due to harsh surface conditions

### Dirang Geothermal Project



The first geothermal producing well in India was successfully drilled by the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) in Dirang, which is situated in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Dirang might become the nation's first geothermal-powered town as a result.

#### What is Geothermal Energy?

- Heat stored in the Earth's interior, mostly from radioactive element decay, is the source of geothermal energy.
- It can be used for industrial purposes, heating, and electricity generating.
- Because the Earth produces heat continuously, it is seen as a renewable energy source.

#### About Dirang Geothermal Project:

- The first successful geothermal drilling project in Northeast India is located in West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
- With assistance from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, CESHS, a division of the Arunachal Pradesh Department of Science and Technology, is in charge of it.
- It has a fault between quartzite and schist, allowing for effective, low-impact drilling in a medium-to-high enthalpy zone (~115°C).
- The location, which can accommodate uses including space heating, controlled storage, and agricultural drying, was chosen following two years of geochemical and structural assessments.

- For execution, international partners are Guwahati Boring Service, Geotropy ehf (Iceland), and the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute.

#### India's Geothermal Landscape:

- There are 381 thermally anomalous locations in India, according to the Geothermal Atlas of India (2022).
- Over 10 million houses might be powered by India's projected 10,600 MW of geothermal potential.
- In contrast to sporadic solar and wind energy, geothermal energy provides base load power.
- A 20 kW binary cycle pilot plant built by SCCL in Manuguru, Telangana, was the first plant to go into operation.
- Due to tariff disputes with the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, a 25 MW project in Khammam is still on hold.
- After a hot water leak in 2022 caused safety concerns, ONGC started construction on a 1 MW pilot plant in Puga Valley, Ladakh, again in 2024.
- A temple in Dholera, Gujarat, uses geothermal energy for air conditioning and cooking, demonstrating the viability of direct-use.
- Geothermal energy was incorporated into the 2023 RETAP deal with the United States, and India has inked Memorandums of Understanding with Saudi Arabia (2019) and Iceland (2007).

#### Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX Mission) enters Preliminary Design Phase



#### Why in the News?

India and Japan have begun the preliminary design phase of the Chandrayaan-5 mission, also known as LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration).

#### Legacy of Chandrayaan Missions

- Chandrayaan-1 (2008): First mission, focused on mineral and chemical mapping.
- Chandrayaan-2 (2019): Orbiter mission with 98% success.
- Chandrayaan-3 (2023): Achieved a historic soft landing on the Moon's south pole.
- Chandrayaan-4 (Upcoming, 2027):
  - It is a planned lunar sample return mission by ISRO, expected to launch around 2027, with the landing site near Statio Shiv Shakti at the lunar south pole.
  - The mission involves five modules launched on two LVM-3 rockets, later docked in Earth orbit to form an integrated spacecraft.
  - A robotic arm and drill will collect 2–3 kg of surface and sub-surface lunar samples for return to Earth.
  - The Re-entry Module (RM) will re-enter Earth's atmosphere with the samples using ballistic re-entry, marking India's first attempt at sample return.
- Chandrayaan-5 / LUPEX: Aimed at deeper exploration with global participation.
- Manned Lunar Mission: Prospected lunar landing by 2040.

#### About Chandrayaan-5/LUPEX Mission:

- It is a collaborative mission between ISRO and JAXA.
- Approval: Cabinet approval for the mission was granted on March 10, 2025.
- Launch: It will carry a 6.5-tonne payload and launch aboard Japan's H3 rocket in 2027–28.
- Collaboration: The lander is being developed by ISRO and the 350-kg rover by JAXA.
- Duration: The mission is expected to last 100 days, with a possible extension of one year.

#### Mission Goals and Objectives:

- Explore water and regolith in the lunar south pole's Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs).
- Drill into the Moon's surface, analyse soil samples, and perform in-situ experiments.
- Assess water content, quality, and analyse surface volatiles using advanced instrumentation.
- Exploration of the far side of the Moon.

#### Scientific Collaboration and Instruments:

- A total of 7 scientific instruments will be onboard the mission.
- ISRO's Contribution: Development of the lander; creation of one sensor in a major four-sensor instrument.
- JAXA's Contribution: Development of the rover and three sensors in the same instrument; Rover is designed to climb 25° inclines and operate on a complex battery charging protocol.
- ESA (European Space Agency): Developing a mass spectrometer.
- NASA: Contributing neutron spectrometers.

#### 125 Years of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO)



#### Why in the News?

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO), one of India's oldest and most important astronomical research

centers devoted to studying the Sun, the Department of Posts has issued a commemorative postage stamp.

#### About the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO):

- Origins: Founded in the late 1800s, KoSO was founded in 1899 following Charles Michie Smith's atmospheric surveys.
- It is situated in the Palani Hills in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, and was picked because of the great sky conditions there.
- Current Equipment: WARM (for high-resolution sunspot imaging) and the H-alpha telescope (for prominences and flares) have been added.
- Institutional Role: In April 1971, it joined the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).
- Scientific Significance: KoSO advances knowledge about how the Sun affects space weather and Earth's climate.

#### Important Observations / Discoveries:

- John Evershed made a significant discovery in solar physics in 1909 when he discovered the Evershed Effect, which was the first observation of radial gas outflows in sunspots.
- Solar Archive, Historic (1904–2017): produced one of the longest continuous solar datasets in the world.
- Digitization: Since 1984, this observatory has been the first in India to digitize solar data, and it presently has a digital collection of 1.48 lakh photos (around 10 TB).
- Broader Scientific Work: Over the years, there has been a lot of research done on radio astronomy, ionospheric physics, stellar astrophysics, and cosmic rays.

## Security Issues

### Government revamps National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)



#### Why in the News?

The Union Government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), appointing Alok Joshi, former chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), as its new chairman.

#### About National Security Advisory Board (NSAB):

- The National Security Council (NSC) receives high-level advice from the NSAB.

- It has a significant impact on how national security policies are shaped and how threats from within and without are addressed.
- Composition: Selected for their experience in military, foreign affairs, internal security, economic affairs, and science and technology, the NSAB comprises distinguished persons from a variety of sectors, including academia, civic society, the armed forces, IPS, and IFS.
- Key Functions:
  - Provide expert analysis on long-term security issues to the NSC.
  - Recommend solutions and policies on matters referred by the NSC.
  - Contribute significantly to India's Nuclear Doctrine, Strategic Defence Reviews, and other critical policy frameworks.

### Civil Defence under the Civil Defence Act, 1968



### Why in the News?

The Union Home Ministry directed all states and Union Territories to conduct a Civil Defence Mock Drill, aimed at assessing and enhancing the readiness of India's civil defence mechanisms.

### About Civil Defence under the Civil Defence Act, 1968

- In order to provide civil defense measures to shield people, property, and businesses from hostile assaults or natural disasters, the Civil Defence Act of 1968 was passed.
- It seeks to equip the populace to handle crises like natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and military assaults.
- Both the federal and state governments establish Civil Defense Corps. Volunteers are recruited and trained from a variety of sectors.
- The corps functions in accordance with the civil defense regulations set forth by the Central Government.
- Managing hazardous materials, rescuing property, protecting people from harm, and evacuating residents are some of the main duties.
- The Central Government has the authority to:
  - Make rules for civil defence across India.
  - Enforce evacuation procedures, control over dangerous substances, and manage disaster relief.
- Penalties for non-compliance with the civil defence regulations.

### Recent Context: Civil Defence Mock Drill on 7th May

- This exercise evaluates and improves India's civil defense systems' ability to react quickly in an emergency.
- Nearly 300 civil defense districts will be used for the exercises, including delicate sites like Tarapur (a nuclear power station), Uran (Jawaharlal Nehru Port), and Mumbai.
- By emphasizing important scenarios in the initial minutes of a disaster, the mock practice seeks to improve response times for rescue and relief efforts.

### BrahMos: the 'Fire and Forget' Stealthy Cruise Missile



### Why in the News?

The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has garnered global attention as it was reportedly used for the first time in a combat scenario during Operation Sindoora.

### About the BrahMos Missile:

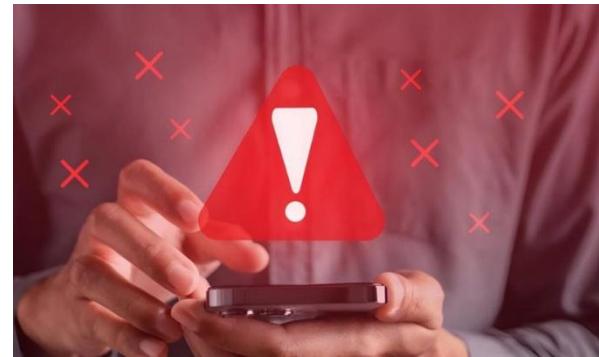
- BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia through BrahMos Aerospace.
- The name is derived from the Brahmaputra River (India) and the Moskva River (Russia).
- It is one of the world's fastest cruise missiles, reaching speeds up to Mach 3.
- It was first successfully tested on June 12, 2001, from Chandipur, Odisha.
- It is a 'fire and forget' missile, requiring no further guidance after launch.

- It can be launched from land, sea, air, and submarine platforms.
- It has been inducted into the Indian Navy (2005), Army (2007), and Air Force (2017).
- **Key Features:**
  - It may be fired from a safe distance, evading enemy defenses, and is categorized as a stand-off weapon.
  - The range was initially 290 km, but it has since been increased to 350–400 km, and future models aim for 800 km and hypersonic speeds (Mach 5).
  - Compared to subsonic missiles, it has nine times the kinetic energy, superior accuracy, and a longer seeker range.
  - It strikes targets on land and at sea with accuracy and can operate day or night in any weather.

#### Anatomy of the BrahMos Missile:

- The BrahMos is a two-stage missile that can move stealthily and has sophisticated propulsion.
- The missile is propelled to supersonic speed by a solid-propellant booster in the first stage.
- A liquid-fueled ramjet engine powers the second stage's high-speed cruise up to Mach 3.
- For effective thrust, the ramjet, an air-breathing engine, mixes liquid fuel with incoming air.
- It has stealth technology including unique materials and a low radar cross-section.
- For pinpoint accuracy, the missile may cruise up to 15 kilometers in the air and drop to 10 meters in the terminal phase.
- It is compatible with a variety of launch platforms, such as submarines, Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft, naval vessels, and mobile launchers.

#### DoT introduces Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)



#### Why in the News?

In a major move to fight cyber fraud and financial crime, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) as a part of the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP).

#### Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) created DIP as a safe, integrated platform for sharing intelligence in real time.
- Stakeholders Participating: It links identification document issuers, banks, financial institutions, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), social media platforms, and telecom service providers (TSPs).
- Functionality: The platform facilitates case monitoring and coordinated action, and it includes information on the misuse of telecom resources.
- Integration with Sanchar Saathi: DIP serves as the backend system for citizen requests made via the Sanchar Saathi website.
- Access Control: The public cannot access DIP; only authorized stakeholders can do so through secure connections.

#### What is the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)?

- Purpose: FRI is a risk-based tool that flags mobile numbers as Medium, High, or Very High risk for financial fraud.
- Data Sources: It pulls inputs from the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu Platform, and banking institutions.

- **Beneficiaries:** Helps banks, NBFCs, and UPI service providers implement added security for high-risk numbers.
- **How It Works:**
  - The Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) shares a Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) with reasons like cybercrime, failed verification, or excess usage.
  - The tool performs multi-dimensional analysis and assigns a fraud risk level.
  - Risk status is shared in real-time via DIP, enabling early action before fraud occurs.

#### Case Study: PhonePe's use of FRI System

- PhonePe was one of the first adopters of the FRI system.
- It uses FRI to:
  - Block transactions linked to Very High-risk numbers.
  - Display alerts using the PhonePe Protect feature.
- For Medium-risk numbers, PhonePe is working on showing proactive user warnings before transactions.
- The tool has proven highly accurate in identifying numbers involved in cyber fraud.

### E-Zero FIR to speed up action on Cyber Frauds



#### Why in the News?

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a pilot project for the e-Zero FIR (First Information Report) system in Delhi to help police take faster action in high-value cyber financial frauds.

#### What is Zero FIR?

- The goal of Zero FIR is to enable any police station to file a formal complaint for a crime that is punishable by law without first assigning a standard FIR number.
- Not keeping a journal: Zero FIRs are given the number "0," in contrast to FIRs, which are given serial numbers. Thus the name.

#### About the e-Zero FIR System:

- **Launch and Goals:** To expedite action in cyber financial frauds exceeding ₹10 lakh, the MHA has started a trial e-Zero FIR project in Delhi.
- **Developer of the System:** The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is part of the MHA, developed it.
- **How It Operates:** Victims can phone the 1930 helpline or submit a report using the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
- **FIR Procedure:** The FIR is electronically filed at Delhi's e-Crime Police Station and thereafter forwarded to the appropriate local police station.
- **Legal Basis:** Sections 173(1) and 173(1)(ii) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, govern the project's implementation.
- **Jurisdiction-Free Filing:** Victims don't have to worry about police station restrictions while reporting crimes.
- **Digital Integration:** The system links the NCRB's CCTNS platform, Delhi Police's e-FIR portal, and the I4C's NCRP.

#### Key Features and Victim Support:

- **Automatic Registration:** When cyber scams total more than ₹10 lakh, FIRs are automatically filed.
- **Access from Anywhere:** Victims are guaranteed jurisdiction-free access by being able to file from any location.

- **Fast FIR Transfer:** Electronically filed FIRs are forwarded to the relevant police station for further investigation.
- **Required Visit:** In order to change the Zero FIR into a standard FIR, victims must go to a cybercrime police station within three days.
- **Better Recovery:** In cases of fraud where time is of the essence, early registration increases the likelihood of recovering lost money.
- **Simplified Process:** The system helps victims of cybercrime take legal action more easily and conveniently.

### 'Golden Dome' Missile Defence System



#### Why in the News?

US President Donald Trump announced that he has shortlisted a design for a powerful new missile defence shield called the 'Golden Dome'.

#### About the Golden Dome Project:

- **Project Launch:** It is a proposed missile defence shield announced by Donald Trump.
- **Development:** It is being led by Michael Guetlein of the US Space Force, with support from SpaceX, Palantir, and Anduril.
- **Timeline:** The system is projected to cost \$175 billion and is expected to be operational by January 2029.

- **Purpose:** It aims to protect the US from long-range missile threats, particularly ICBMs from China and Russia.
- **Defence Layers:** The system will combine technologies deployed on land, at sea, and in space for comprehensive coverage.

#### Key Features:

- **Space-Based Interceptors:** To provide worldwide missile defense, thousands of orbiting satellites will transport and deploy interceptors from space.
- **Missile Tracking:** The system will be able to track adversary launches in a matter of seconds thanks to real-time detection using space-based sensors.
- **Altitude and Reach:** Many traditional air defenses will be out of reach for drones and satellites operating at 15,000 meters or higher.
- **Payload Flexibility:** Depending on the requirements of the mission, it can deploy air-to-air missiles, cruise missiles, kamikaze UAVs, and surveillance drones.
- **Modular Adaptability:** The system can be used for a variety of purposes, such as marine surveillance, public security, and military activities.

#### Parallel Examples:

- **Iron Dome (Israel):** A short-range missile defence system using ground-based radar and Tamir interceptors for protection against rockets and UAVs.
- **"Star Wars" Initiative (1980s):** President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) aimed to destroy nuclear missiles from space using lasers and interceptors.
- **DARPA's Gremlins Project:** Explored mother ship-launched drones; Golden Dome builds on this idea at a larger and space-based scale.



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